

Mahabharata-2

Bheeshma's Vow



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MAHABHARATA

The Mahabharata is the longest epic known to man. It is also what may be called the total epic because, besides being a literary classic, it is a supreme work of philosophy and an exhaustive manual of morals and manners.

The origin of the Mahabharata is shrouded in mystery. Countless scholars have pried into the work to discover the personality of its author, Veda Vyasa, to pin down its date of composition, and to analyse its historical veracity. But doubts still persist on all these counts.

Was it possible for one person to compose over a hundred thousand verses? Handed down by oral tradition, was the Mahabharata written down in 800 B.C. or 600 B.C. or 300 B.C.? Can the levels of Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware, or the names of present-day cities and plains, or the radio-carbon tests of excavated materials, vouch for its historicity? There is no conclusive answer.

The core of the tale – the feud between the princely cousins, the Pandavas and the Kauravas, leading to the eighteen-day-long bloody war – must have had its roots in some real event. The text with its available recensions points to three oral versions: the first as recited by Veda Vyasa himself, the next as recited by his disciple Vaishampayana to Janamejaya, and the third as narrated again by one Sauti, who had heard Vaishampayana's recital. Additions and interpolations must have crept in at various times, till the advent of the printing-press and standard editions.

Amar Chitra Katha has already presented many popular stories from the Mahabharata, chosen for their emotional and dramatic appeal and often modified to suit the Chitra Katha mode.

The current series of 60 volumes, on the other hand, faithfully follows the original Sanskrit text even as it is condensed.

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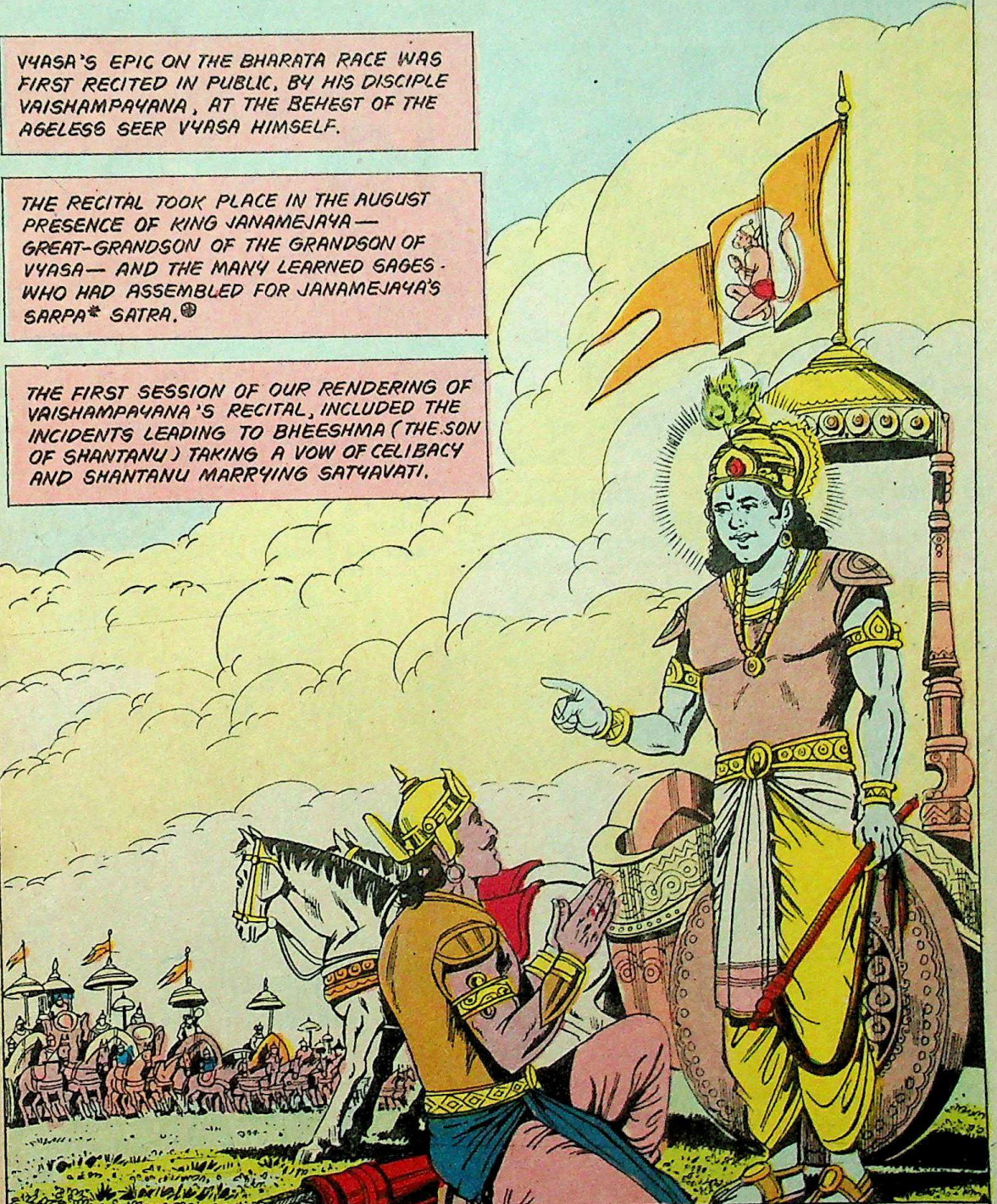
MAHABHARATA-2

Bheeshma's Vow

VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA — GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA — AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA* SATRA. ❁

THE FIRST SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL, INCLUDED THE INCIDENTS LEADING TO BHEESHMA (THE SON OF SHANTANU) TAKING A VOW OF CELIBACY AND SHANTANU MARRYING SATYAVATI.

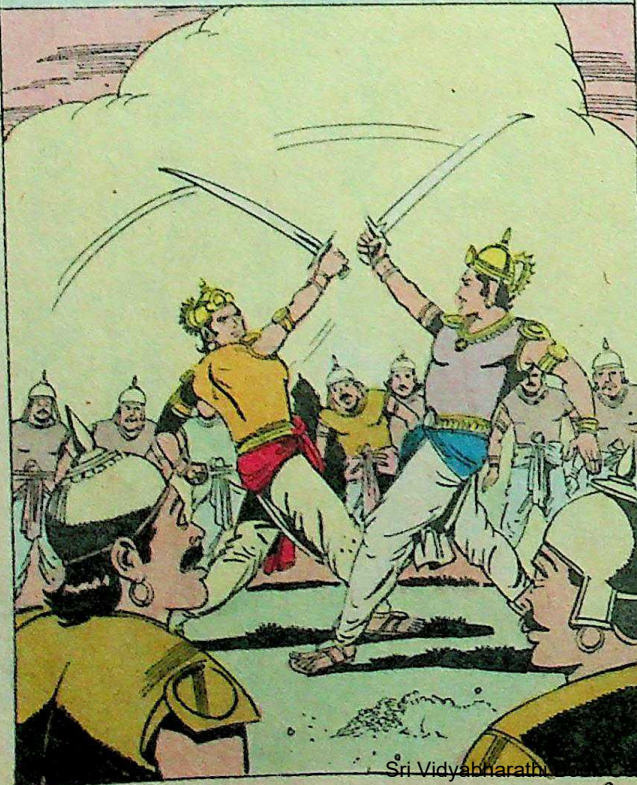


O MONARCH, TWO SONS WERE BORN TO SATYAVATI AND SHANTANU OF BHARATA'S RACE. THEY WERE CALLED CHITRANGADA AND VICHITRAVEERYA.

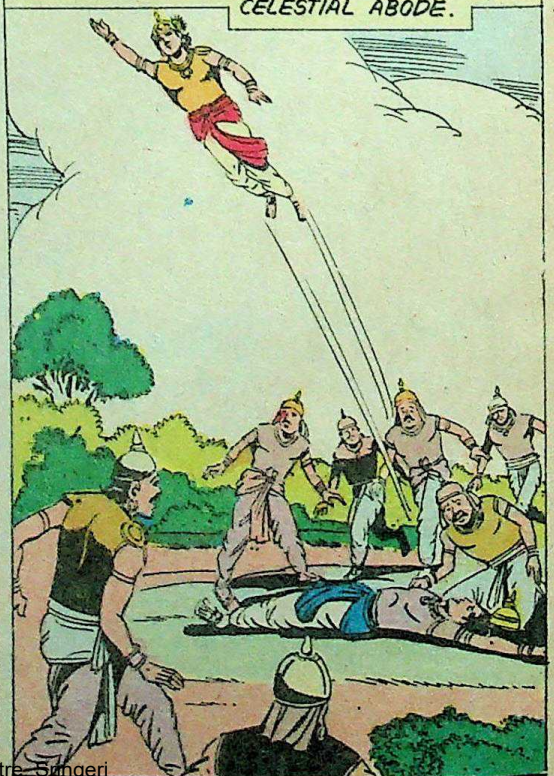
YEARS LATER, SHANTANU PASSED AWAY AND BHEESMA CROWNED CHITRANGADA AS THE KING OF HASTINAPURA. VANQUISHING THE DENIZENS OF THIS WORLD AND THE OTHER WORLDS HE REIGNED SUPREME.



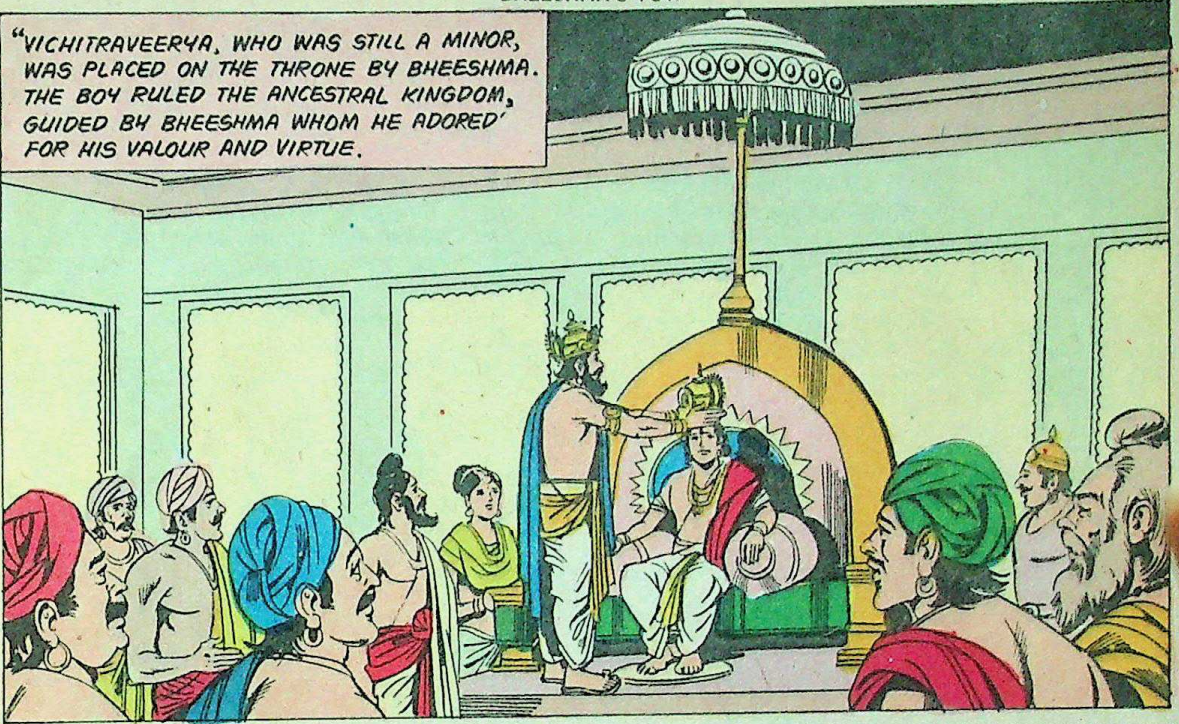
"IRKED BY HIS SUPREMACY, A GANDHARVA OF THE SAME NAME CHALLENGED HIM TO A FIGHT ON THE FIELD OF KURUKSHETRA.



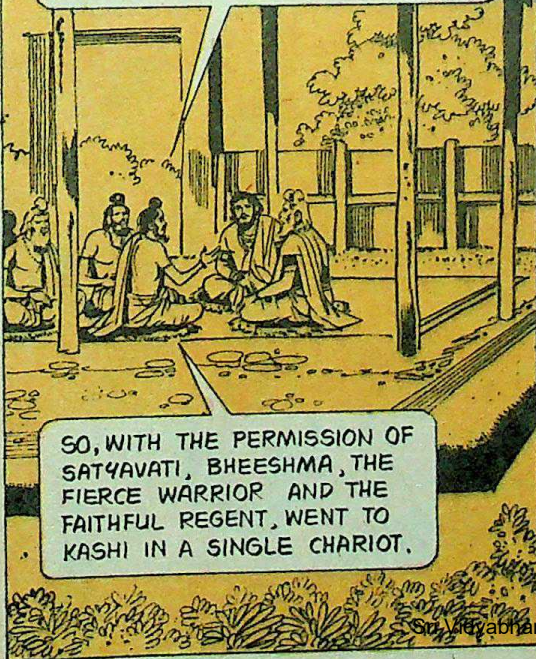
"AFTER A TERRIBLE COMBAT, WHICH LASTED THREE YEARS, CHITRANGADA WAS SLAIN, AND THE GANDHARVA RETURNED TO HIS CELESTIAL ABODE.



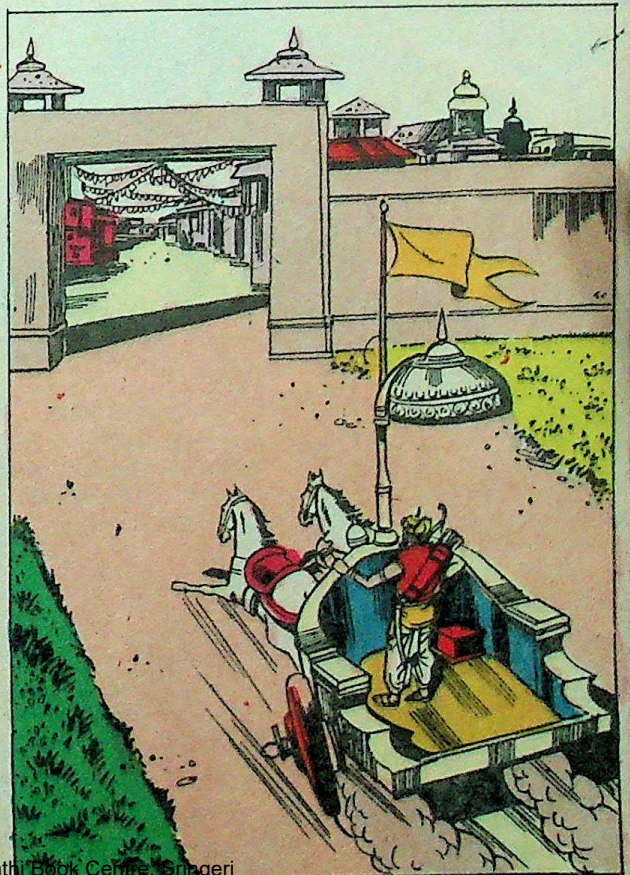
"VICHITRAVEERYA, WHO WAS STILL A MINOR, WAS PLACED ON THE THRONE BY BHEESHMA. THE BOY RULED THE ANCESTRAL KINGDOM, GUIDED BY BHEESHMA WHOM HE ADORED FOR HIS VALOUR AND VIRTUE."



WHEN VICHITRAVEERYA CAME OF AGE AND WAS READY FOR MARRIAGE, BHEESHMA, THE EVER-WATCHFUL, HEARD THAT THE THREE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING OF KASHI WOULD BE CHOOSING THEIR HUSBANDS AT A SWAYAMVARA CEREMONY.



SO, WITH THE PERMISSION OF SATYAVATI, BHEESHMA, THE FIERCE WARRIOR AND THE FAITHFUL REGENT, WENT TO KASHI IN A SINGLE CHARIOT.

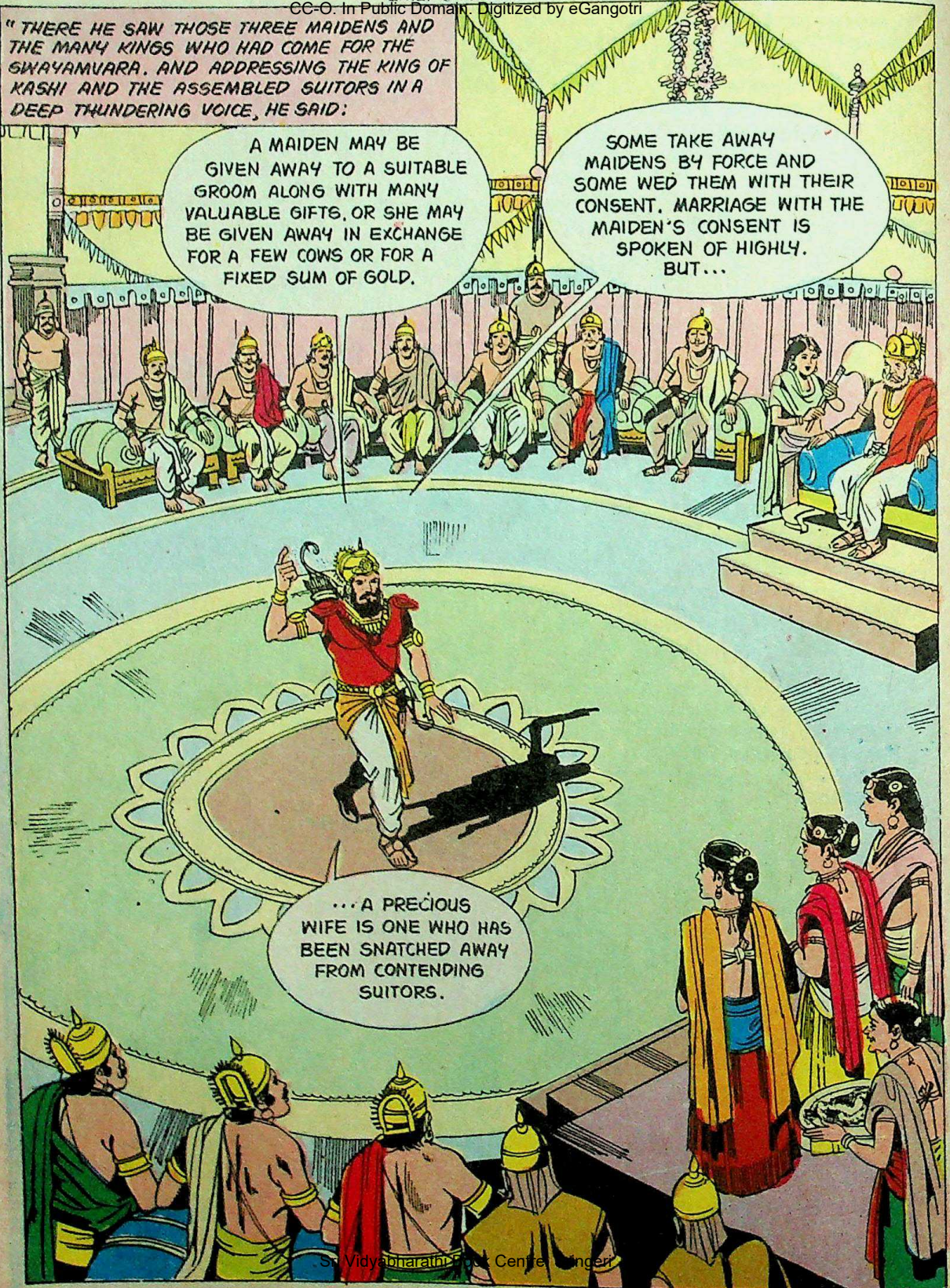


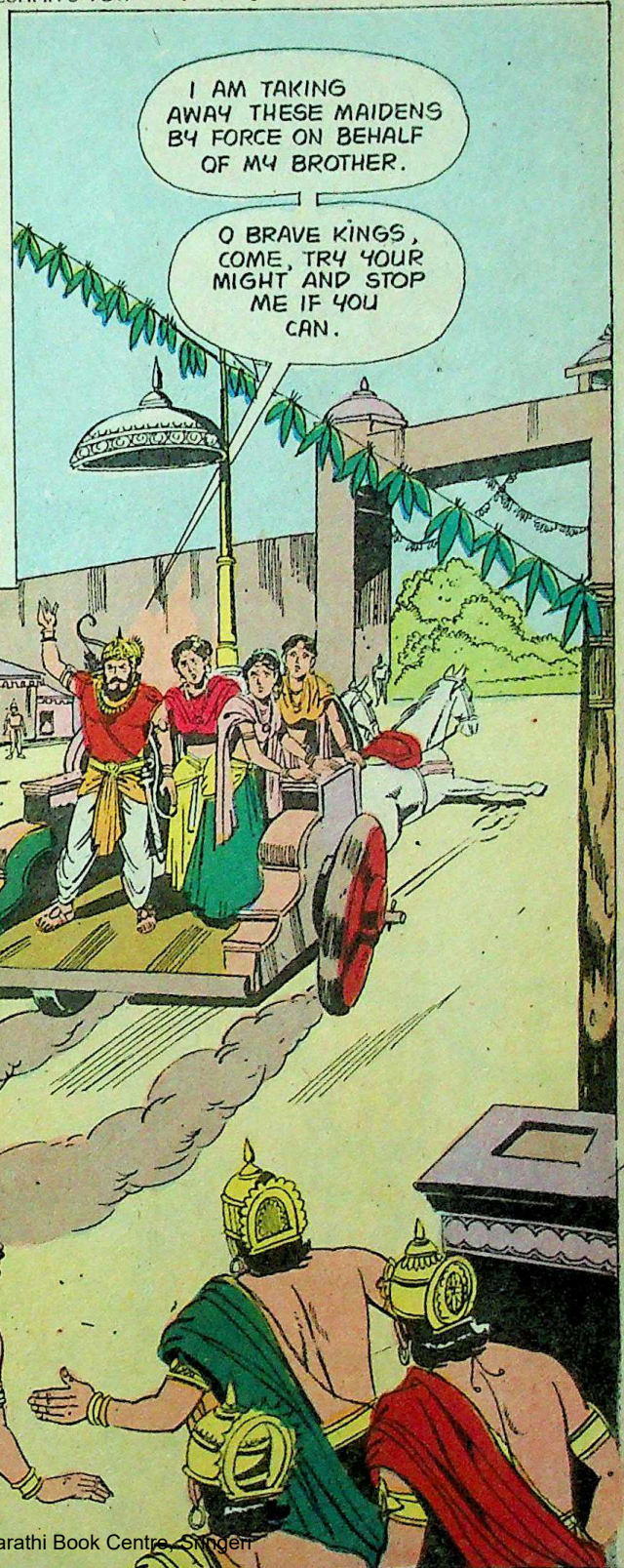
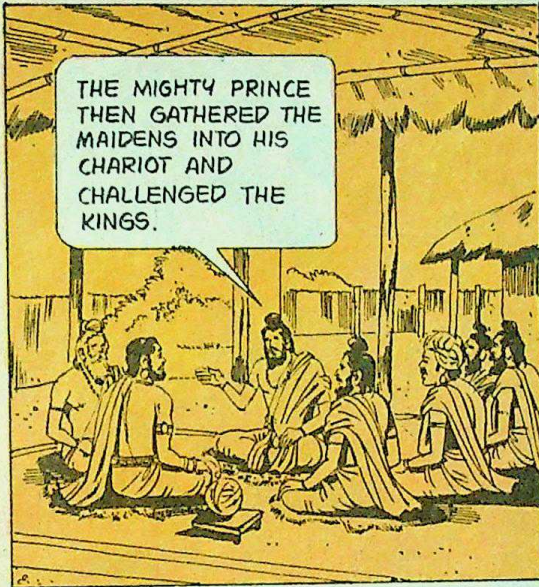
"THERE HE SAW THOSE THREE MAIDENS AND THE MANY KINGS WHO HAD COME FOR THE SWAYAMVARA. AND ADDRESSING THE KING OF KASHI AND THE ASSEMBLED SUITORS IN A DEEP THUNDERING VOICE, HE SAID:

A MAIDEN MAY BE GIVEN AWAY TO A SUITABLE GROOM ALONG WITH MANY VALUABLE GIFTS, OR SHE MAY BE GIVEN AWAY IN EXCHANGE FOR A FEW COWS OR FOR A FIXED SUM OF GOLD.

SOME TAKE AWAY MAIDENS BY FORCE AND SOME WED THEM WITH THEIR CONSENT. MARRIAGE WITH THE MAIDEN'S CONSENT IS SPOKEN OF HIGHLY. BUT...

...A PRECIOUS WIFE IS ONE WHO HAS BEEN SNATCHED AWAY FROM CONTENDING SUITORS.

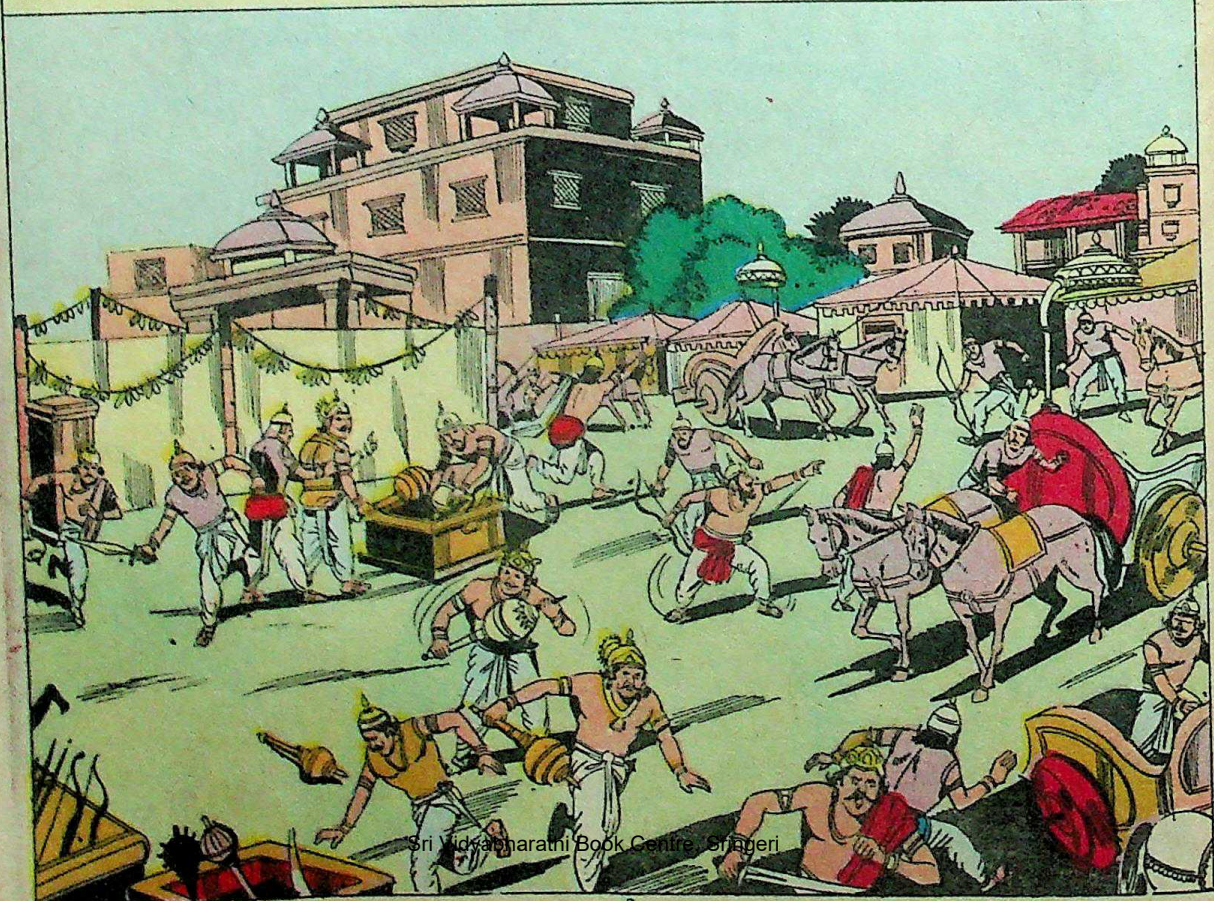




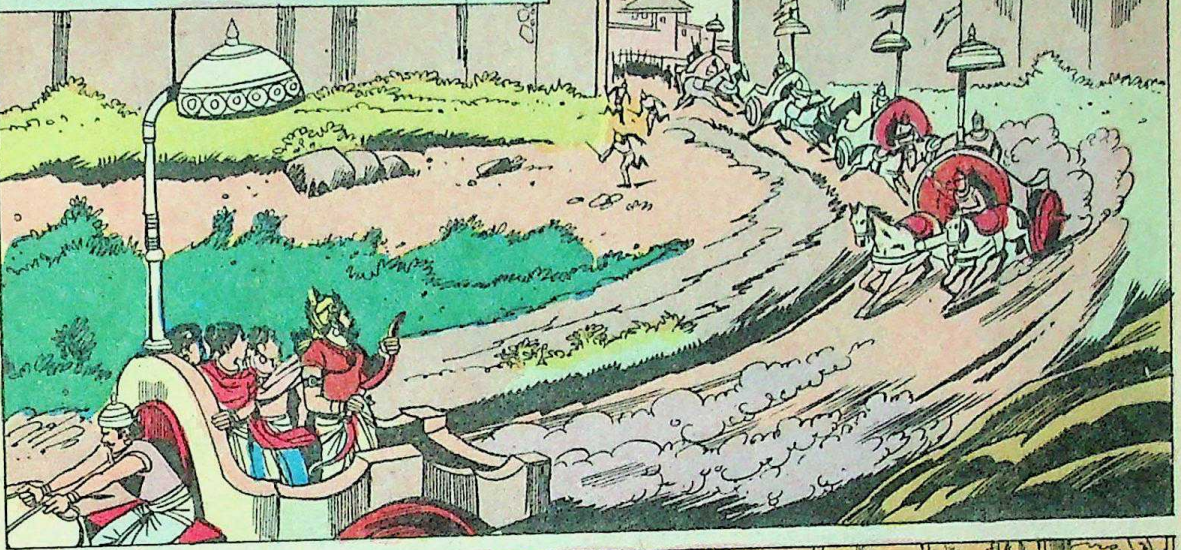
"SMARTING UNDER THE SCORN OF BHEESHMA,
THE ARRAY OF KINGS STOOD UP AS ONE
MAN READY TO FIGHT."



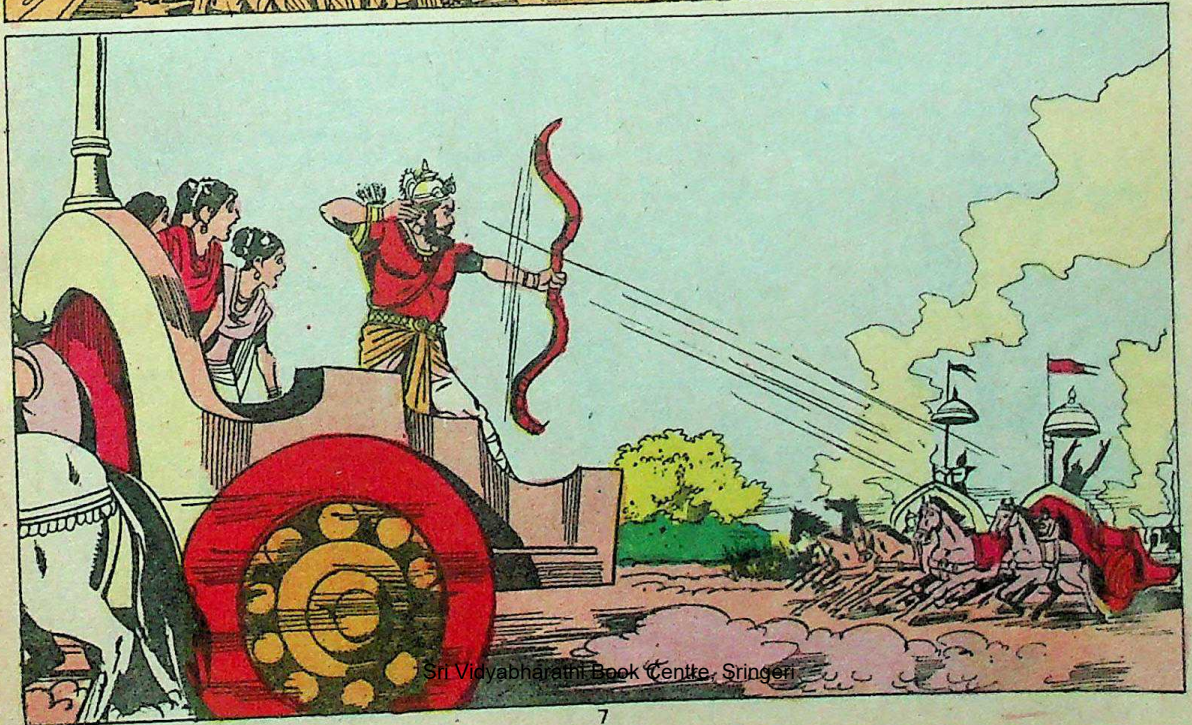
"WITHOUT A MOMENT'S LOSS, THE KINGS CAST OFF THEIR WEDDING FINERY AND REACHED
FOR THEIR ARMOUR. THE SPARKLE OF THEIR ORNAMENTS, THE GLEAM OF THEIR WEAPONS
AND THE CLANG OF METALS, RENT THE AIR WITH THE BRILLIANCE OF A METEORIC BURST."

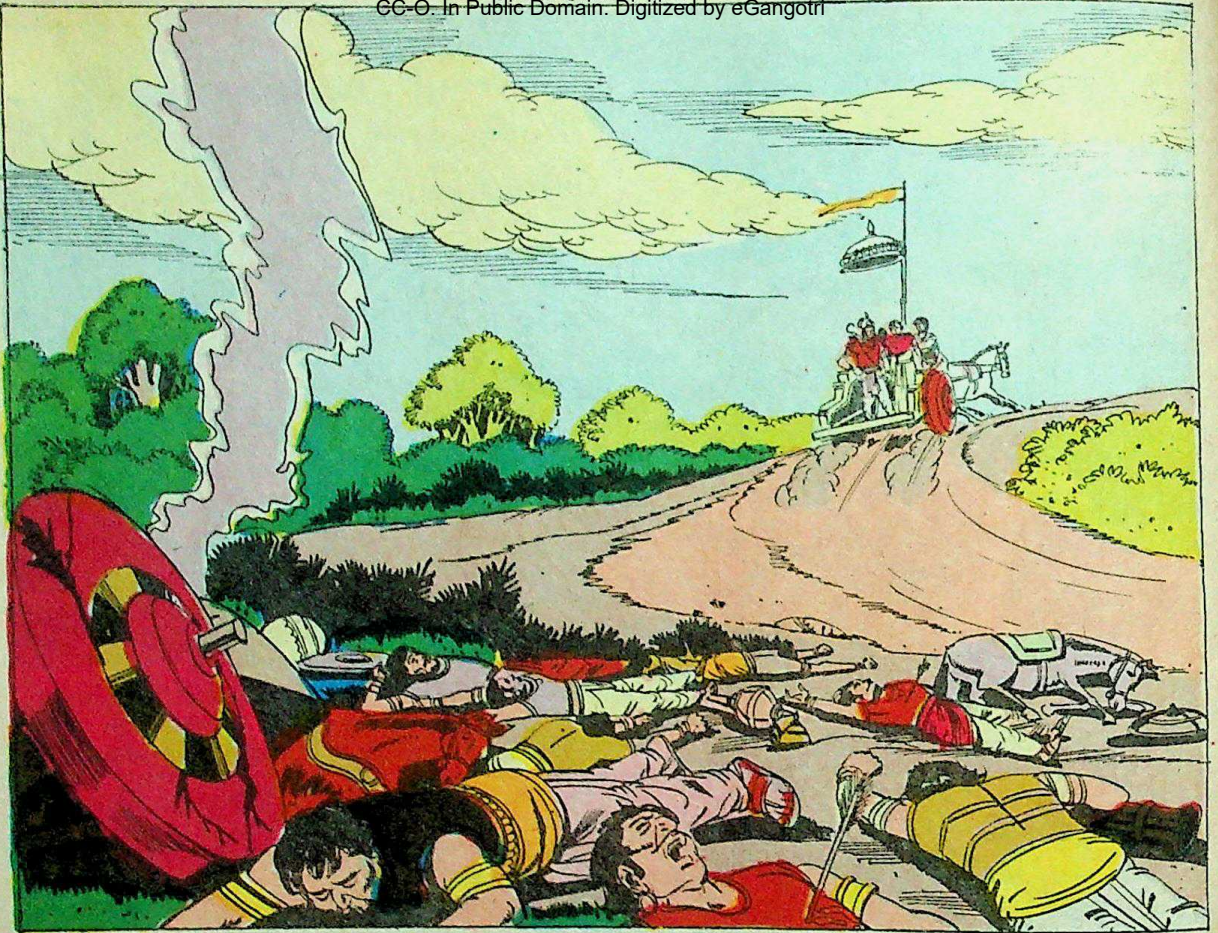


"THE IMPATIENT KINGS, IN THEIR MARTIAL RAGE, BRANDISHED THEIR WEAPONS AND PURSUED THE CHIEF OF THE KURUS."



AND THEN THERE FOLLOWED, O MONARCH, A TERRIBLE FIGHT. THE SWARM OF ARROWS, FROM THE MULTITUDE OF KINGS, WAS CHECKED BY BHEESHMA WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS FROM HIS SINGLE BOW — A SHOWER AS INNUMERABLE AS THE HAIR ON ONE'S BODY.

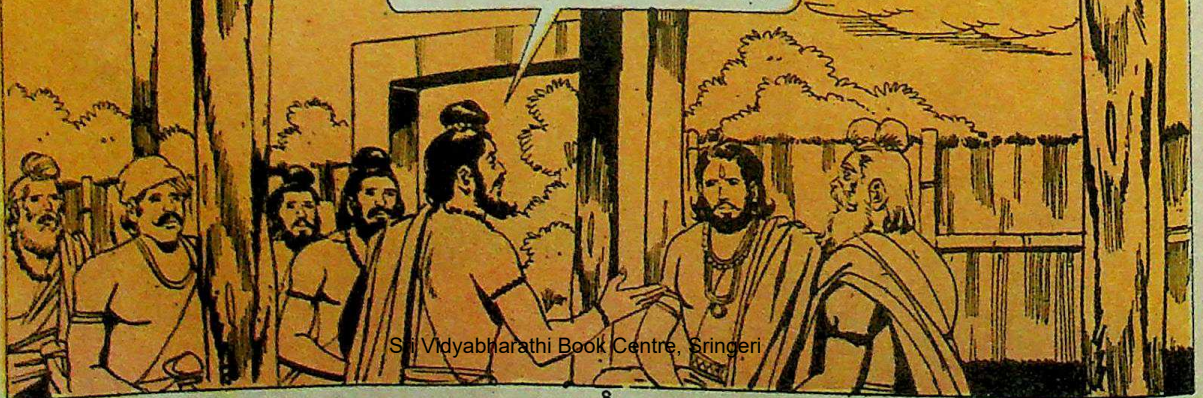




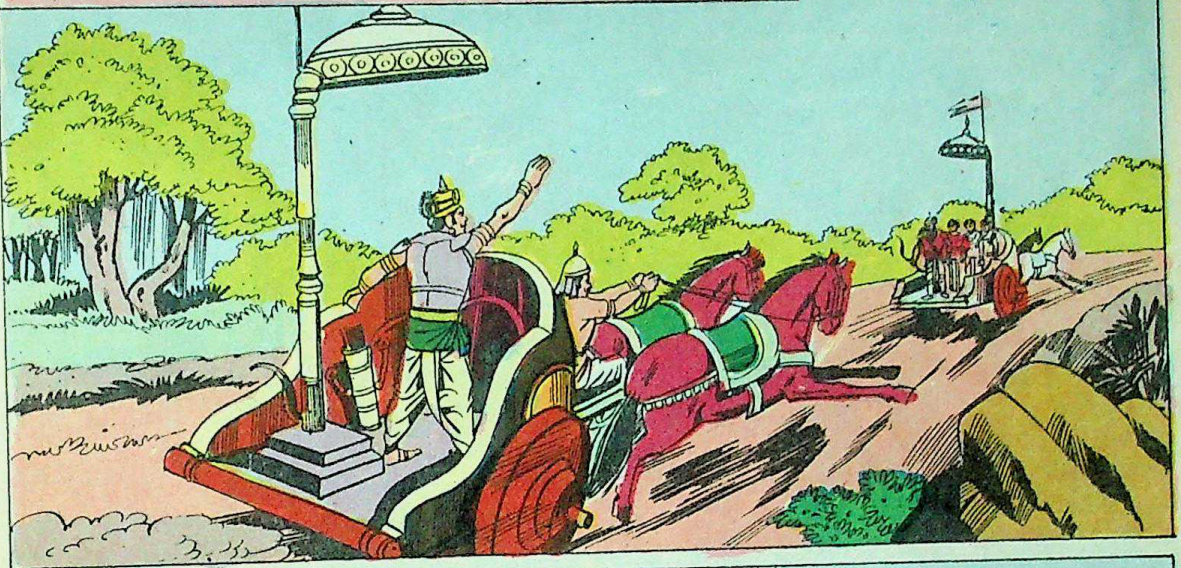
THE BATTLE RAGED SO FIERCE, WITH CLASHING WEAPONS AND FLYING MISSILES, THAT IT STRUCK TERROR IN THE HEARTS OF EVEN THOSE WHO WERE MERE SPECTATORS.

IN NO TIME, THE GROUND WAS STREWN WITH HEADS SEVERED FROM BODIES, FLAGSTAFFS FROM CHARIOTS, AND ARMOUR FROM HEAVING CHESTS.

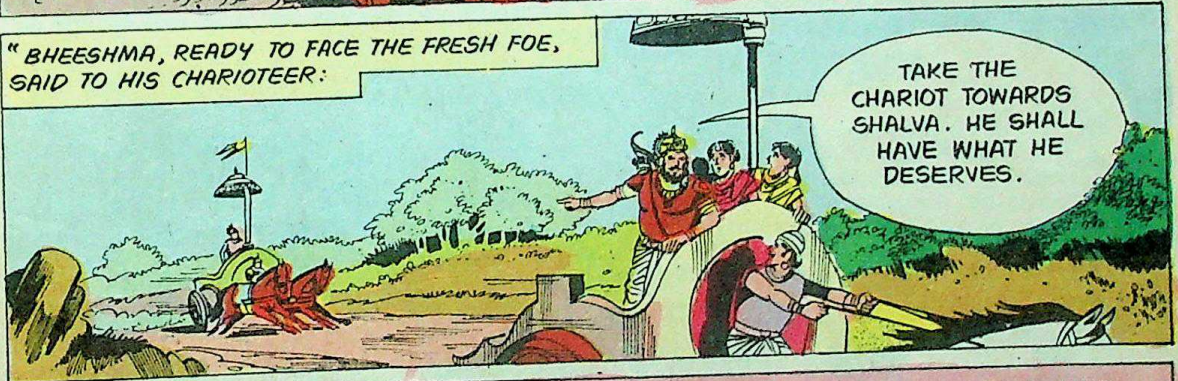
AND SUCH WAS THE PROWESS OF BHEESMA THAT EVEN THE ENEMIES WHO CAME TO FIGHT HIM REMAINED TO APPLAUD.



"AS THE VICTORIOUS BHEESHMA TURNED HIS CHARIOT TOWARDS HASTINAPURA, SHALVA, THE KING OF SAUBHA, CHALLENGED HIM TO SINGLE COMBAT.

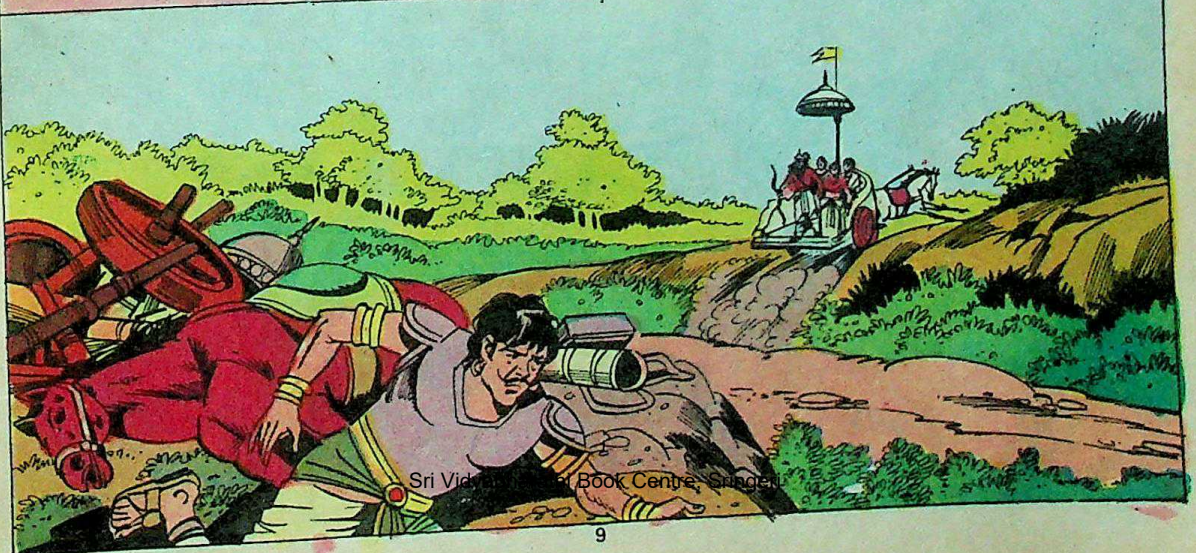


"BHEESHMA, READY TO FACE THE FRESH FOE, SAID TO HIS CHARIOTEER:

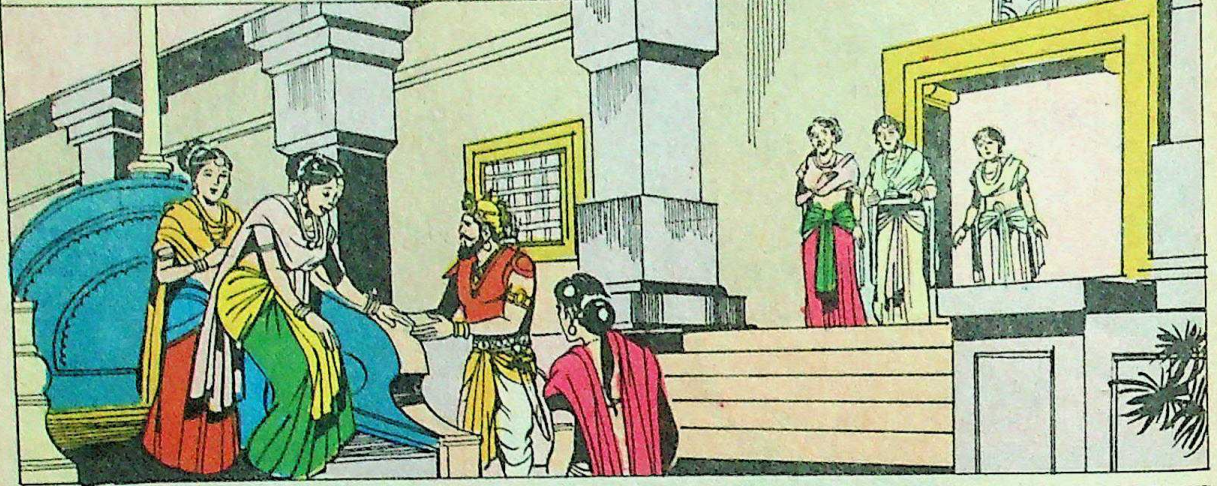


TAKE THE CHARIOT TOWARDS SHALVA. HE SHALL HAVE WHAT HE DESERVES.

"BHEESHMA SLEW SHALVA'S STEEDS AND CHARIOTEER, BUT SPARED HIS LIFE, AND PROCEEDED WITH THE MAIDENS TOWARDS HASTINAPURA.



"RUTHLESS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, BHEESHMA WAS FULL OF TENDERNESS WHEN IT CAME TO LOOKING AFTER THE MAIDENS AS HE BROUGHT THEM TO VICHITRAVEERYA.



"WHEN THE DETAILS OF THE WEDDING WERE SETTLED BY BHEESHMA AND APPROVED BY SATYAVATI, AMBA, THE ELDEST OF THE MAIDENS, SAID TO BHEESHMA:

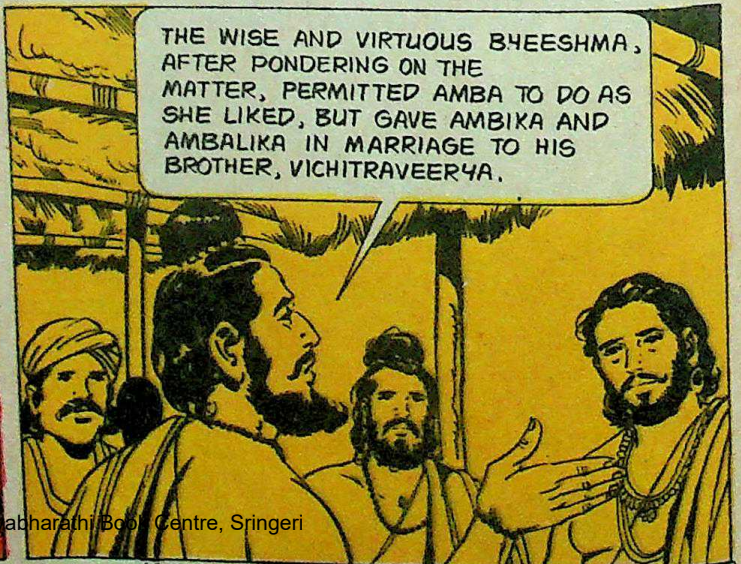
EVEN BEFORE THE SWAYAMVARA WAS HELD, I HAD CHOSEN THE KING OF SAUBHA. HE HAD ACCEPTED AND MY FATHER HAD APPROVED.



NOW THAT YOU KNOW THIS, DO AS YOU CHOOSE.

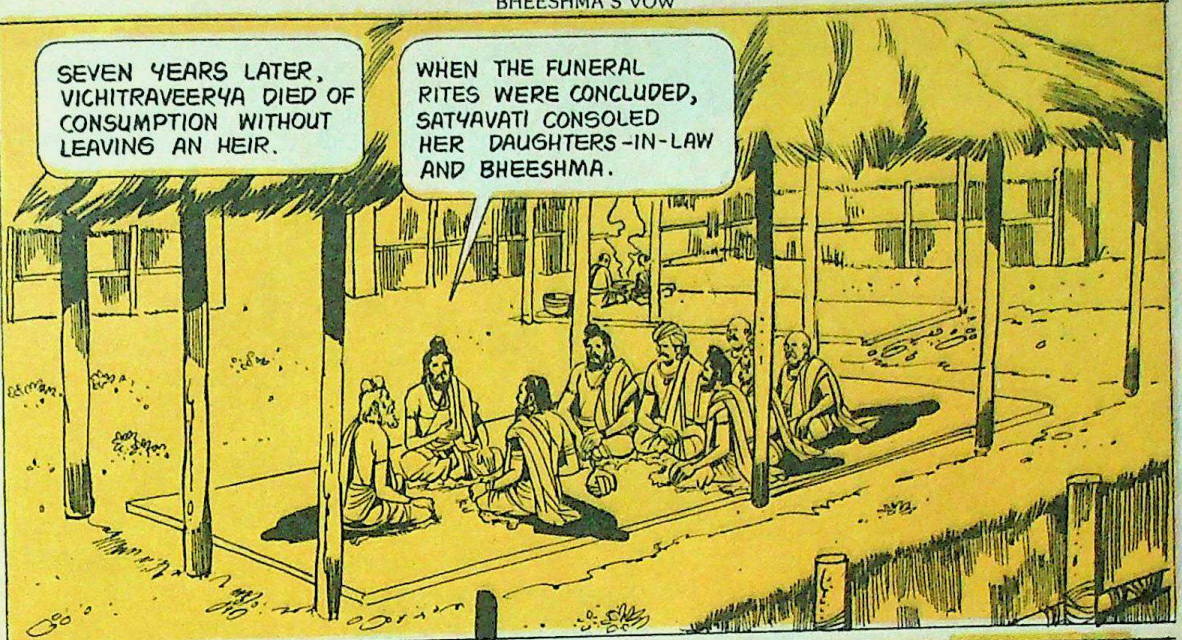


THE WISE AND VIRTUOUS BHEESHMA, AFTER PONDERING ON THE MATTER, PERMITTED AMBA TO DO AS SHE LIKED, BUT GAVE AMBIKA AND AMBALIKA IN MARRIAGE TO HIS BROTHER, VICHITRAVEERYA.



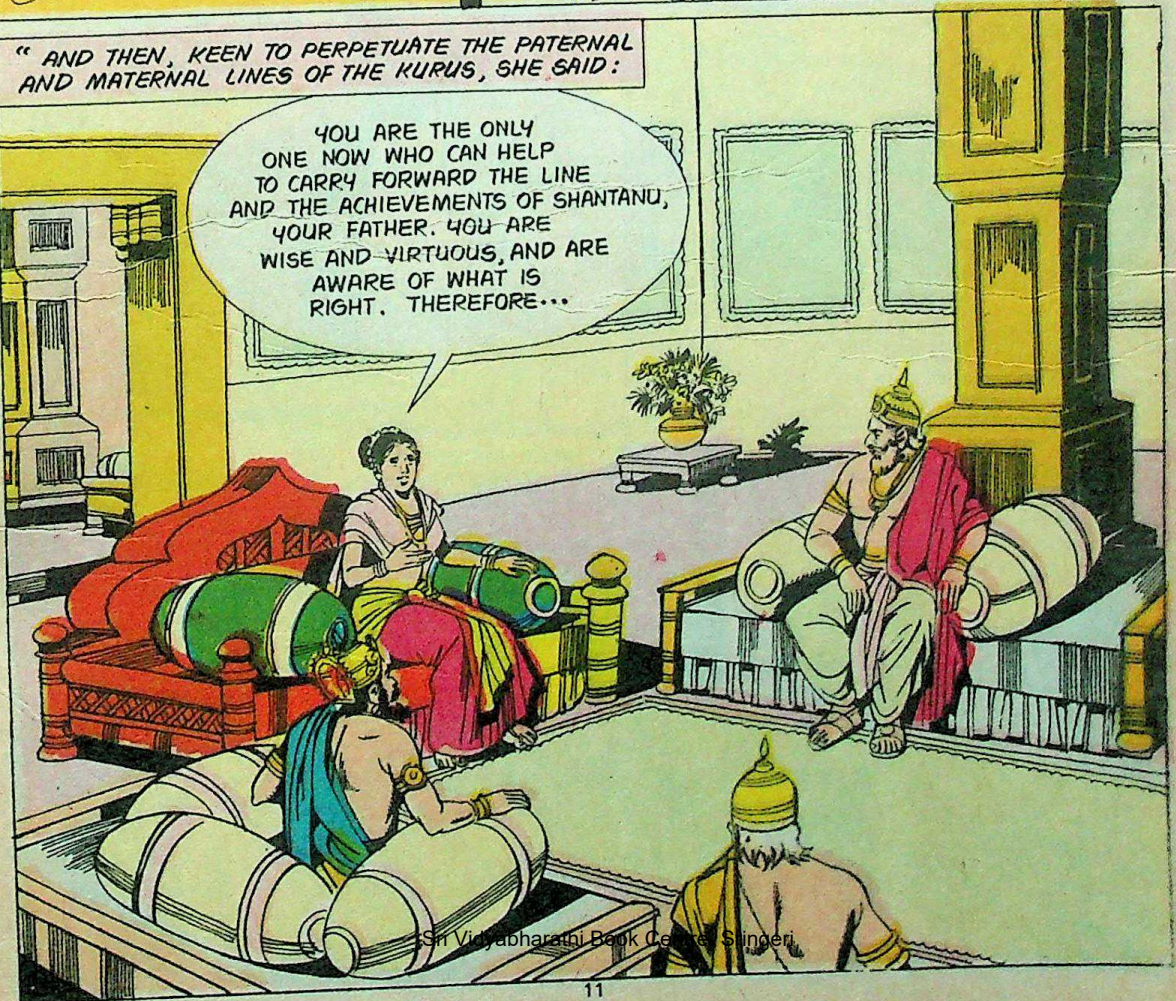
SEVEN YEARS LATER,
VICHITRAVEERYA DIED OF
CONSUMPTION WITHOUT
LEAVING AN HEIR.

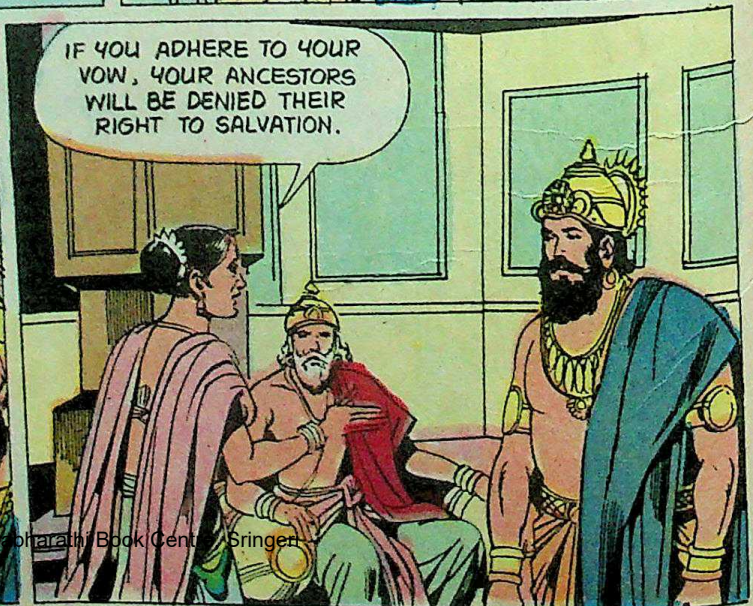
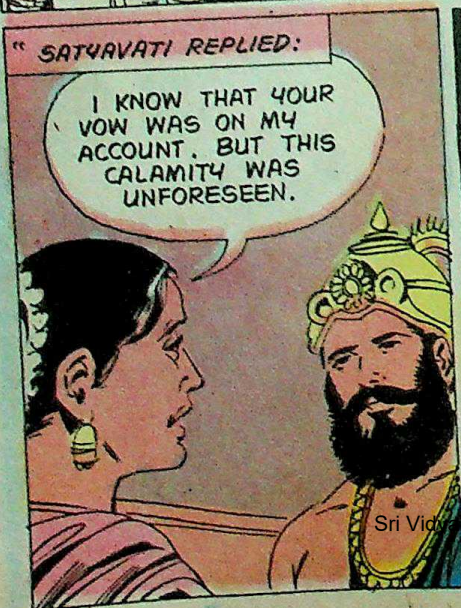
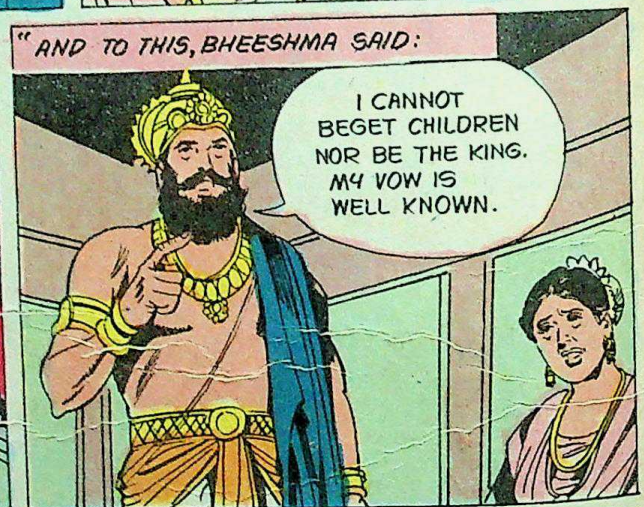
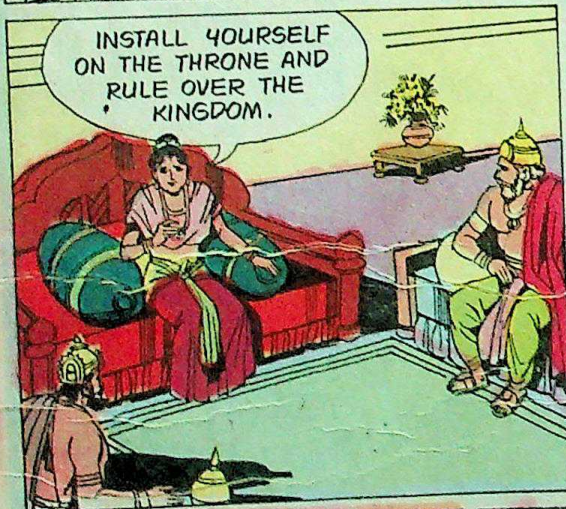
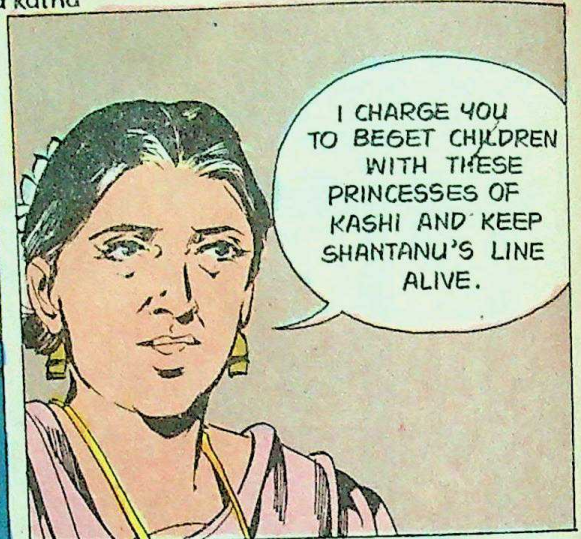
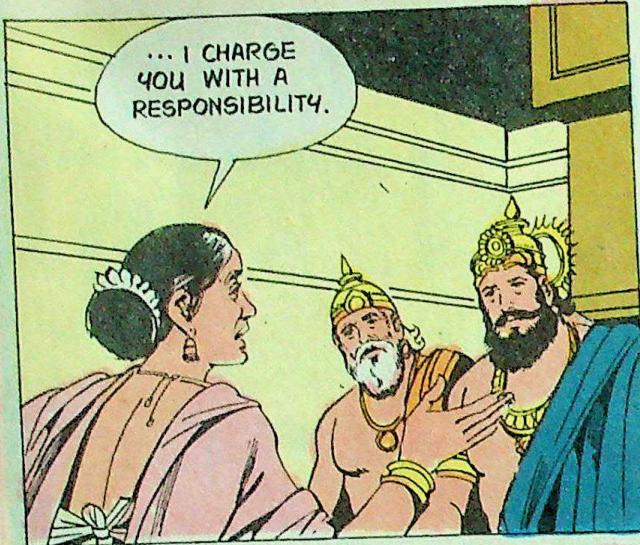
WHEN THE FUNERAL
RITES WERE CONCLUDED,
SATYAVATI CONSOLED
HER DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
AND BHEESHMA.



"AND THEN, KEEN TO PERPETUATE THE PATERNAL
AND MATERNAL LINES OF THE KURUS, SHE SAID:

YOU ARE THE ONLY
ONE NOW WHO CAN HELP
TO CARRY FORWARD THE LINE
AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHANTANU,
YOUR FATHER. YOU ARE
WISE AND VIRTUOUS, AND ARE
AWARE OF WHAT IS
RIGHT. THEREFORE...





"THUS URGED BY WORDS
UTTERED IN DESPERATE SORROW BY
SATYAVATI, BHEESHMA SAID:

BREACH OF TRUTH
IS NEVER APPROVED BY
OUR SACRED TEXTS. HOW-
EVER, THE KSHATRIYAS DO
HAVE RECOURSE TO A
CUSTOM, WHICH HAS BEEN
SANCTIONED BY
TRADITION.

AN ACCOMPLISHED
MAN COULD BE
INVITED TO RAISE
OFFSPRING IN THE
WIVES OF
VICHITRAVEERYA.

"SATYAVATI SMILING BASHFULLY THEN SAID:

O PRINCE, IN OUR
RACE YOU ARE VIRTUE,
YOU ARE TRUTH, YOU
ARE OUR SOLE REFUGE.
THEREFORE, LISTEN TO
MY STORY AND DO
WHAT IS PROPER.

AND SATYAVATI TOLD BHEESHMA
IN PRIVATE OF HOW SHE MET
PARASHARA WHEN SHE WAS A
MAIDEN AND OF THE SON, KRISHNA
DWAIPAYANA, BORN TO THEM. THE
SON WHO IS VYASA, MY GURU.

"AND THEN SATYAVATI SAID:

IF YOU APPROVE
OF IT, O BHEESHMA,
MY SON THE GREAT
ASCETIC KRISHNA
DWAIPAYANA WILL
COME AND BEGET THE
OFFSPRING WE
DESIRE.

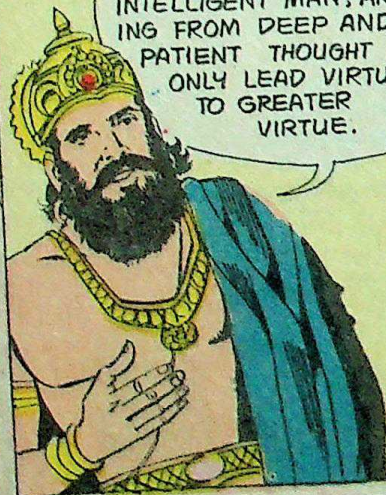


"AT THE MENTION OF MY GURU'S NAME, BHEESH-
MA JOINED HIS PALMS AND SAID:

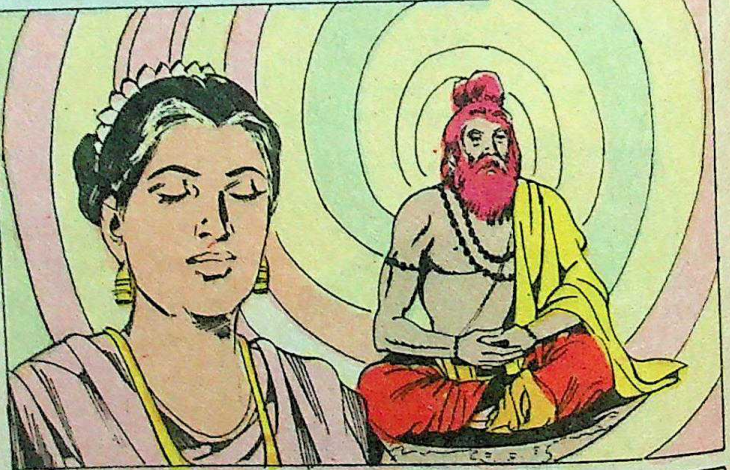
O QUEEN, WHAT YOU HAVE
SUGGESTED IS IN KEEPING
WITH PROPRIETY, AND HAS
MY FULL APPROVAL.
FOR...



...THE ACTS OF AN
INTELLIGENT MAN, ARIS-
ING FROM DEEP AND
PATIENT THOUGHT WILL
ONLY LEAD VIRTUE
TO GREATER
VIRTUE.



"AND WHEN BHEESHMA SAID THIS, SATYAVATI
THOUGHT OF SAGE DWAIPAYANA...

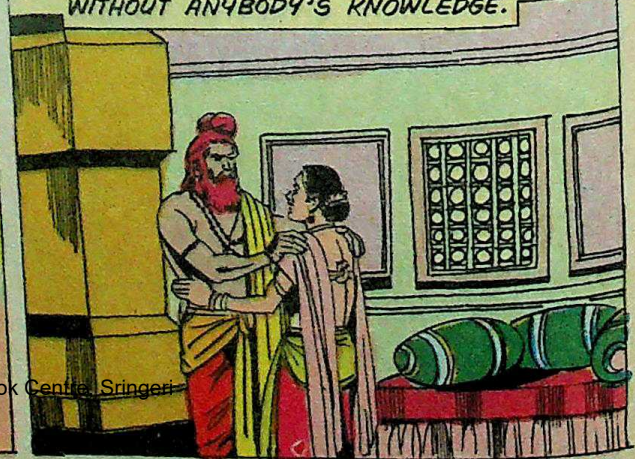


...WHO WAS THEN ENGAGED IN
INTERPRETING THE VEDAS.

इन्द्रं मित्रं वरुणमग्निमाहु...।
एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति...।



"DIVINING THAT HE WAS NEEDED BY HIS
MOTHER MY GURU CAME INSTANTLY TO HER
WITHOUT ANYBODY'S KNOWLEDGE.



"SEEING HER SON AFTER A LAPSE OF SO MANY YEARS, SATYAVATI WEPT BITTERLY AND HER FIRST-BORN WIPED HER TEARS SAYING:

I HAVE COME, MOTHER, TO FULFIL YOUR WISHES. COMMAND ME.

"BIDDING VYASA TO SIT DOWN, SATYAVATI SAID:

THIS IS MY COMMAND AND BHEESHMA'S REQUEST.

FOR THE LOVE OF VICHITRAVEERYA, WHO IS AS MUCH YOUR BROTHER AS BHEESHMA, AND FOR OUR DYNASTY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE...

...GRACE THE WIVES OF VICHITRAVEERYA WITH CHILDREN.

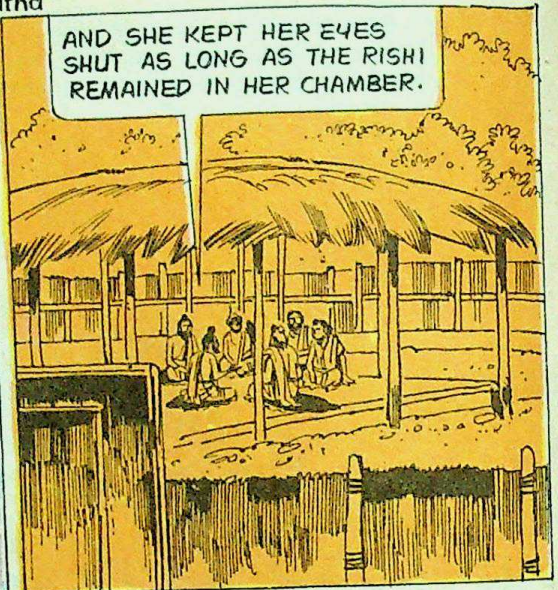
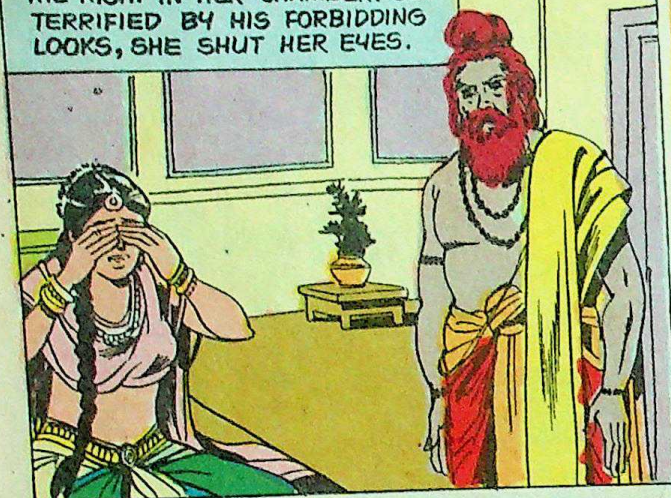
"VYASA REPLIED:

I SHALL CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS WITH A SPOTLESS MIND.

EACH PRINCESS SHALL CONCEIVE A NOBLE SON, IF SHE IS PATIENT WITH MY STRONG ODOUR, UGLY FACE AND UNKEMPT APPEARANCE.

"AFTER MUCH PERSUASION FROM SATYAVATI, AMBIKA RECEIVED THE RISHI IN HER CHAMBER. BUT TERRIFIED BY HIS FORBIDDING LOOKS, SHE SHUT HER EYES.

AND SHE KEPT HER EYES SHUT AS LONG AS THE RISHI REMAINED IN HER CHAMBER.



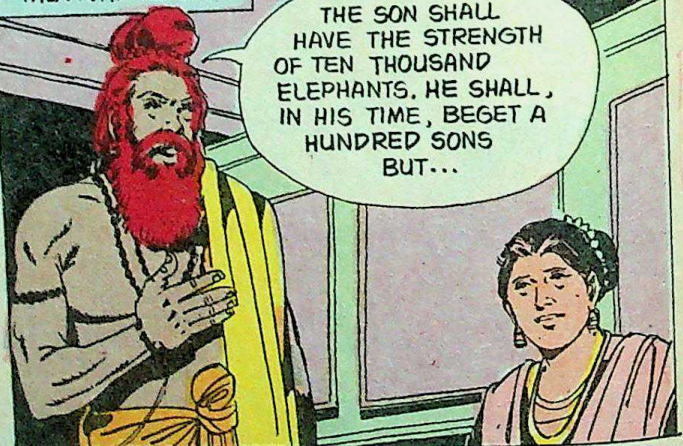
"LATER, WHEN SATYAVATI ASKED HIM:

SHALL THE PRINCESS HAVE A NOBLE SON?



"THE RISHI REPLIED:

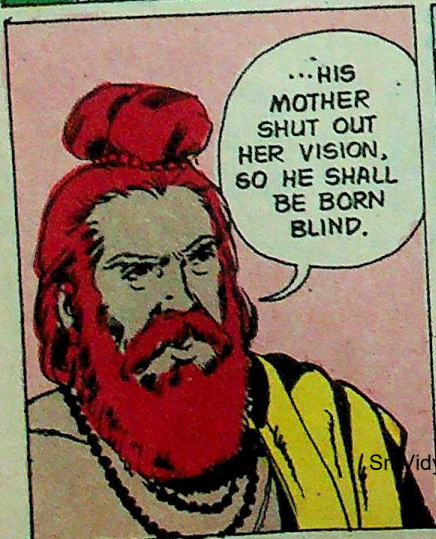
THE SON SHALL HAVE THE STRENGTH OF TEN THOUSAND ELEPHANTS, HE SHALL, IN HIS TIME, BEGET A HUNDRED SONS BUT...



"HEARING THESE WORDS, SATYAVATI CRIED OUT:

HOW CAN A BLIND MAN BE A KING? IN ALL PROPRIETY YOU MUST GIVE THE KURUS ANOTHER KING.

...HIS MOTHER SHUT OUT HER VISION, SO HE SHALL BE BORN BLIND.



"SO, AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE BLIND SON, DHRTARASHTRA, VYASA APPROACHED AMBALIKA, THE YOUNGER PRINCESS, GRIPPED BY FEAR AT THE SIGHT OF THE RISHI, SHE TURNED PALE, AND VYASA SAID:

FEAR HAS
TURNED YOU PALE,
FOR WHICH YOUR
SON SHALL BE PALE
OF SKIN. AND HE
SHALL BE NAMED
PANDU.

DISAPPOINTED A SECOND TIME,
SATYAVATI BEGGED OF THE RISHI
FOR ANOTHER CHILD BY AMBIKA. BUT
WHEN THE TIME CAME, THE SELF-
WILLED AMBIKA SENT IN HER MAID,
DECKED IN HER OWN ORNAMENTS,
TO RECEIVE THE SAGE. THE MAID
WAITED UPON HIM WITH RESPECT
AND REVERENCE.

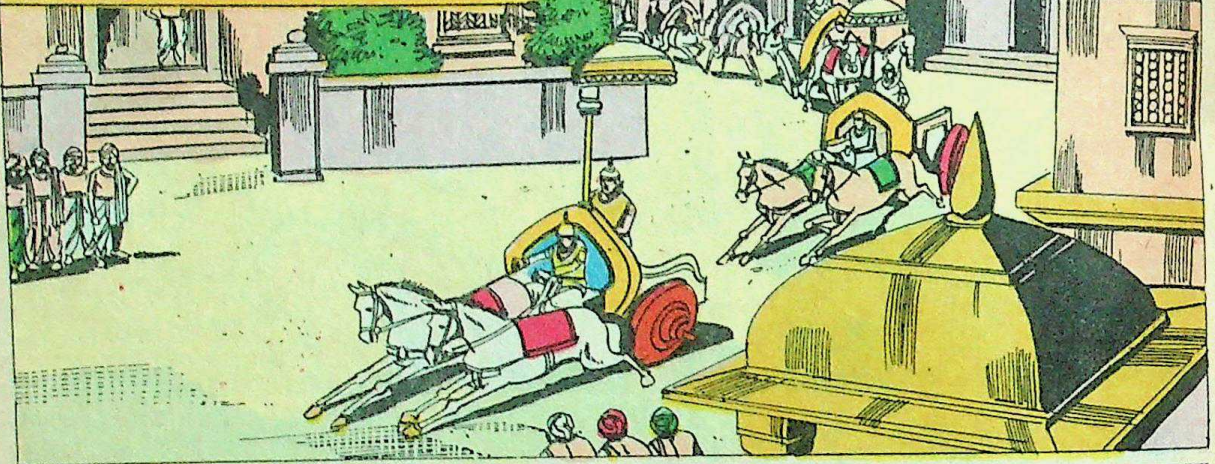
"THE SAGE WAS PLEASED AND SAID:

YOU SHALL
NO LONGER BE A
SLAVE. AND THE
CHILD THAT YOU
BEAR SHALL BE
INTELLIGENT
AND WISE.

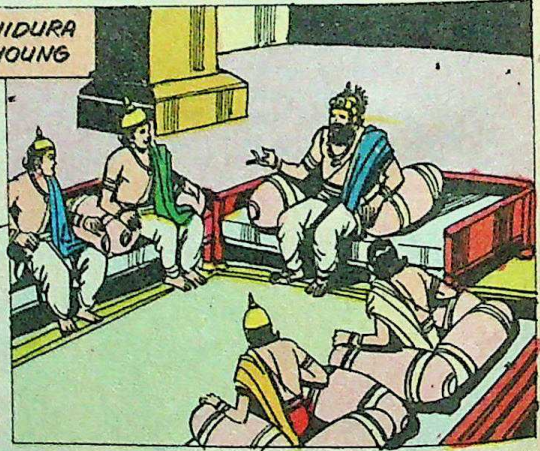
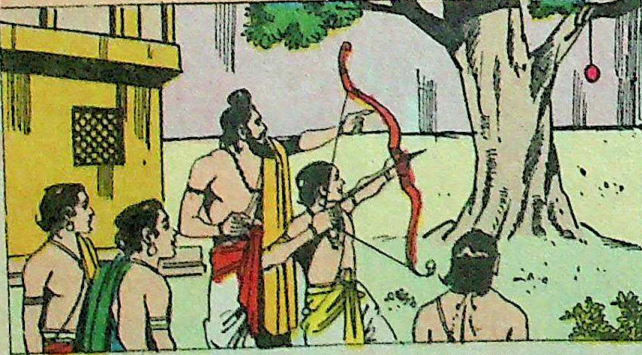
AND THE SON BORN TO HER
BY THE GRACE OF MY GURU
VYASA WAS VIDURA, THE
BROTHER OF DHRTARASHTRA
AND PANDU, THE PROPAGA-
TORS OF THE KURU RACE.

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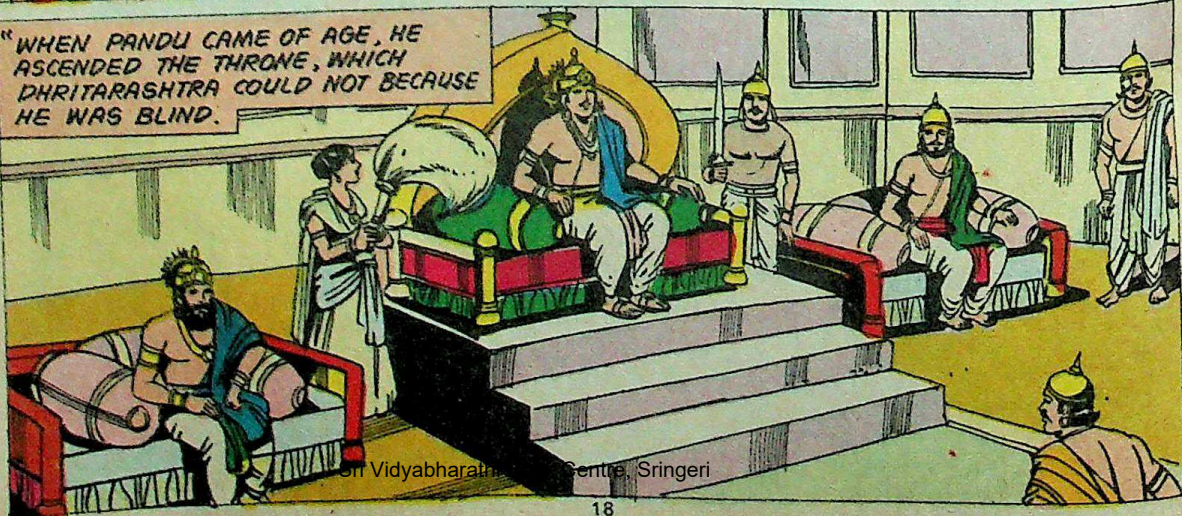
"AND WITH THE AUSPICIOUS BIRTH OF THESE CHILDREN, KURUJANGALA AND THE KURUS GREW IN PROSPERITY. O MONARCH, UNDER THE JUST RULE OF BHEESHMA, THE LAND PROSPERED IN PEACE AND PLENTY, ATTRACTING SETTLERS FROM OTHER KINGDOMS WHO SWELLED THE POPULATION.



"BHEESHMA RAISED DHRTITARASHTRA, PANDU AND VIDURA AS HIS OWN SONS, AND THEY GREW UP INTO FINE YOUNG MEN, ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLARS AND SOLDIERS.

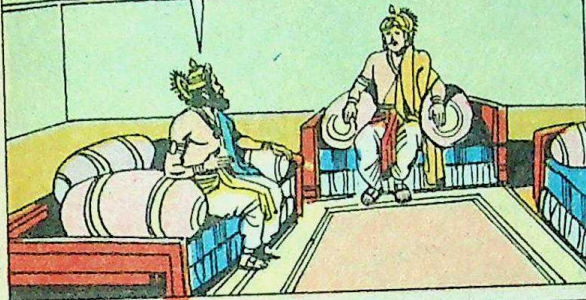


"WHEN PANDU CAME OF AGE, HE ASCENDED THE THRONE, WHICH DHRTITARASHTRA COULD NOT BECAUSE HE WAS BLIND.



"THEN ONE DAY, BHEESHMA SAID TO THE WISE AND LEARNED VIDURA:

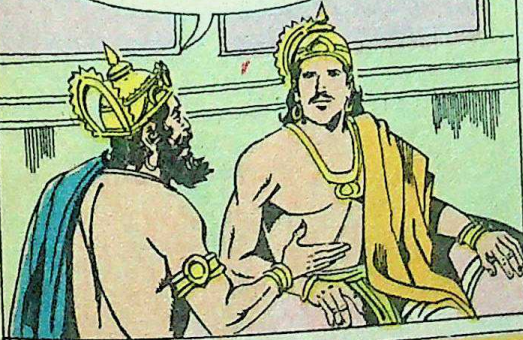
THE TIME IS RIFE FOR US TO PLAN THE FUTURE OF OUR DYNASTY.



THERE ARE THREE EMINENTLY WORTHY MAIDENS — GANDHARI, THE DAUGHTER OF SUBALA, KUNTI THE DAUGHTER OF SHOORA, AND MADRI THE SISTER OF SHALYA.



I THINK THEY WILL MAKE IDEAL WIVES FOR OUR PRINCES TO KEEP OUR RACE ALIVE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



"TO THIS, VIDURA REPLIED:

YOU HAVE BEEN MOTHER, FATHER AND SPIRITUAL GUIDE TO US. WHAT YOU DEEM BEST, IS THE BEST FOR US.

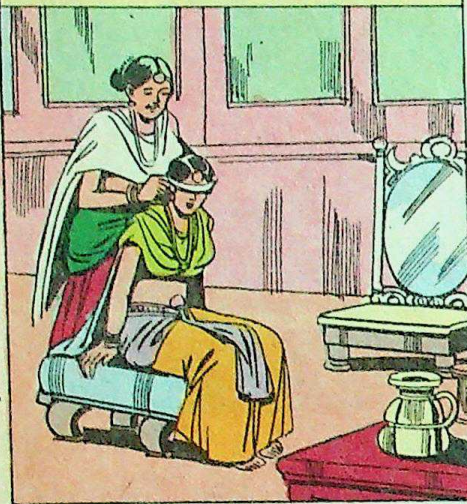


AND THEN, BHEESHMA HEARD THAT GANDHARI HAD OBTAINED, FROM SHIVA, A BOON THAT WOULD MAKE HER THE MOTHER OF A HUNDRED SONS. AND HE LOST NO TIME IN SENDING MESSENGERS TO SUBALA, THE KING OF GANDHARA.

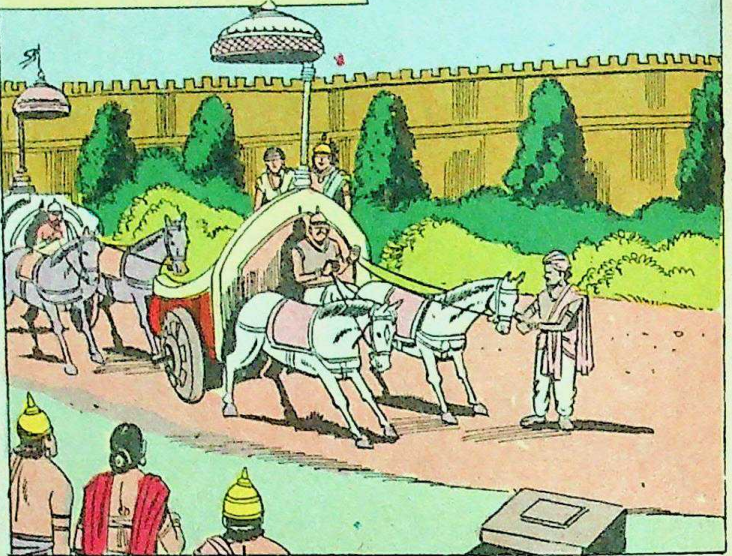
THOUGH HESITANT AT FIRST, BECAUSE THE BRIDEGROOM WAS BLIND, SUBALA GAVE IN BECAUSE DHRTARASHTRA WAS A KURU PRINCE.



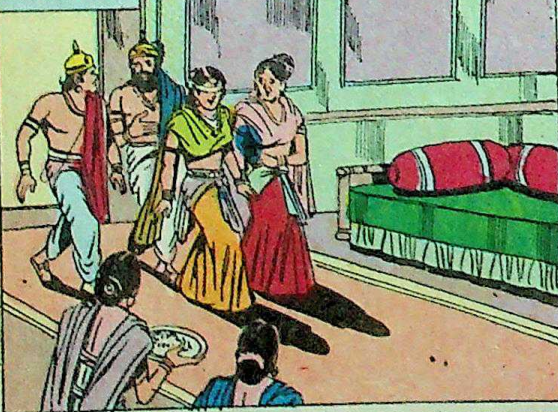
"WHEN GANDHARI HEARD THAT SHE WAS TO BE MARRIED TO A BLIND PRINCE, SHE BLINDFOLDED HERSELF IN A GESTURE OF LOVE AND RESPECT."



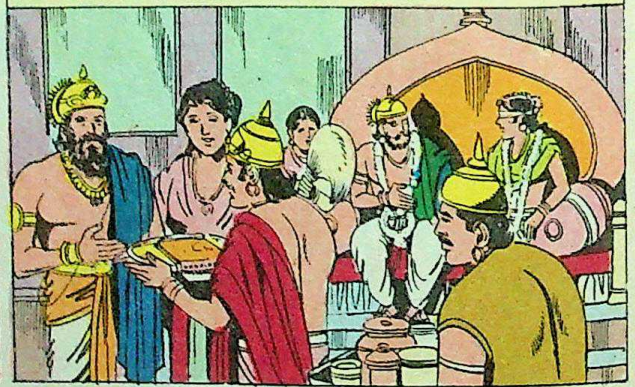
"SHAKUNI, THE SON OF SUBALA, ESCORTED HIS SISTER TO THE LAND OF THE KURUS..."



"... WHERE SHE WAS RESPECTFULLY RECEIVED."

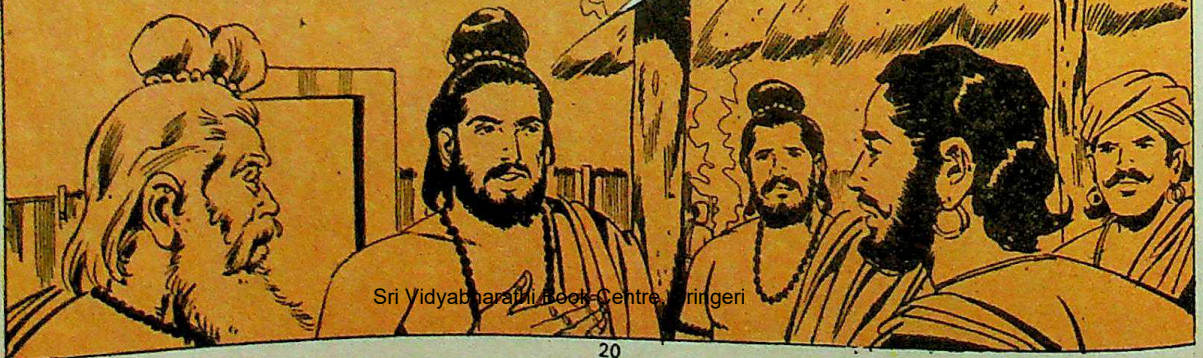


"AND THERE, UNDER BHEESHMA'S DIRECTIONS, THE WEDDING OF DHRITARASHTRA AND GANDHARI WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP."



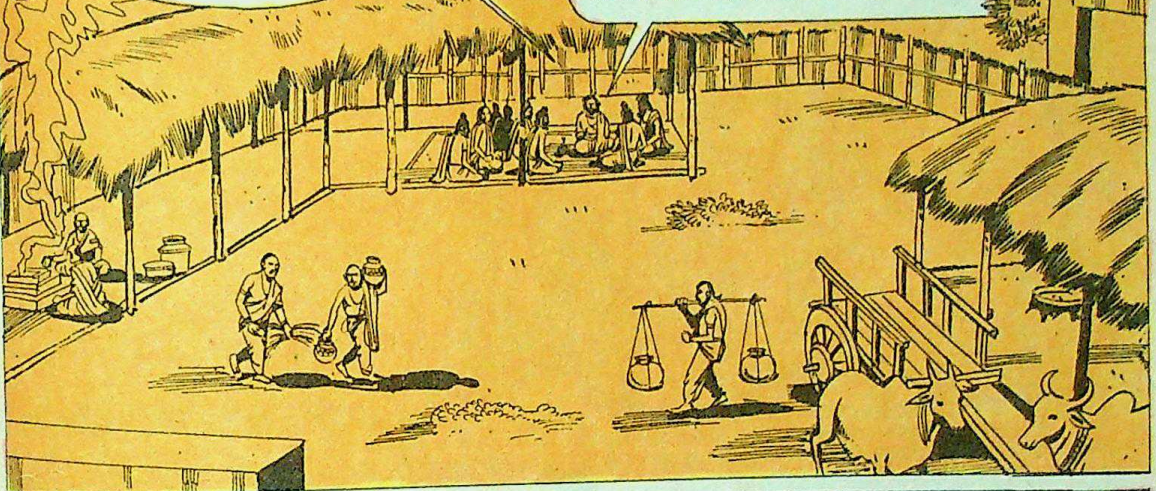
THEN SHAKUNI, HAVING GIVEN AWAY HIS SISTER ALONG WITH MANY VALUABLE ROBES, RETURNED TO GANDHARA.

THUS DID DHRITARASHTRA OBTAIN THE DAUGHTER OF SUBALA FOR A WIFE.



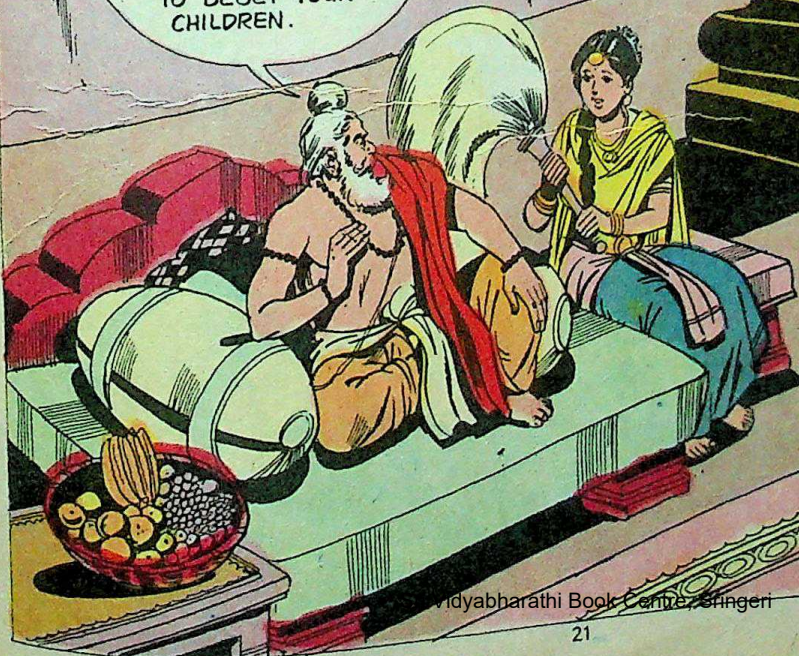
O SAGE, YOU SPOKE
OF KUNTI AS THE DAUGHTER
OF SHOORA THE YADAVA, BUT
OUR ELDERS ALWAYS SPOKE
OF HER AS THE DAUGHTER OF
KUNTIBHOJA.

KUNTIBHOJA, THE SON OF SHOORA'S
PATERNAL AUNT, WAS CHILDLESS.
AND SHOORA, FULFILLING A
PROMISE, GAVE HIS FIRST-BORN
TO KUNTIBHOJA. THE CHILD, NAMED
PRITHA, CAME TO BE KNOWN AS
KUNTI IN HER NEW HOME.

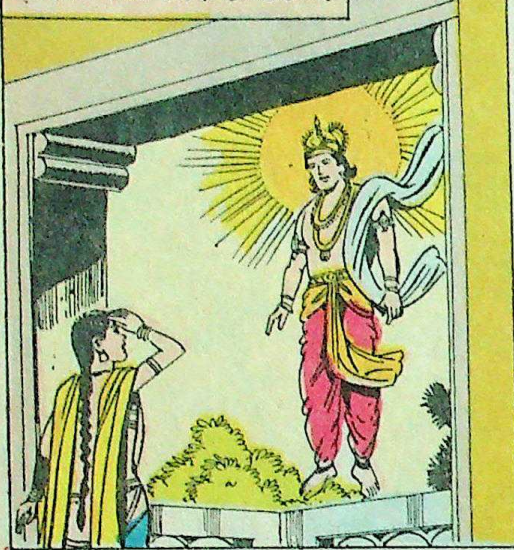


"THERE IT WAS HER DUTY TO ATTEND UPON REVERED GUESTS. ONCE, WHILE YET A
YOUNG GIRL, SHE PLEASSED THE STERN SEER, DURVASA, WITH HER PATIENT
HOSPITALITY. AND HE SAID:

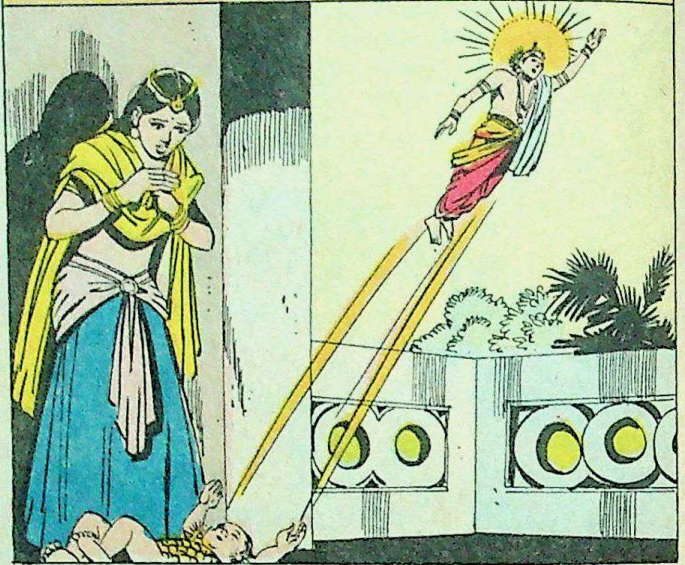
WITH THE MANTRA
I AM ABOUT TO GIVE YOU,
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO
SUMMON WHICHEVER
CELESTIALS YOU LIKE
TO BEGET YOUR
CHILDREN.



"AS SOON AS DURVASA WENT AWAY, THE CURIOUS PRINCESS, TO SEE IF THE MANTRA WOULD WORK, SUMMONED SURYA THE LORD OF LIGHT.



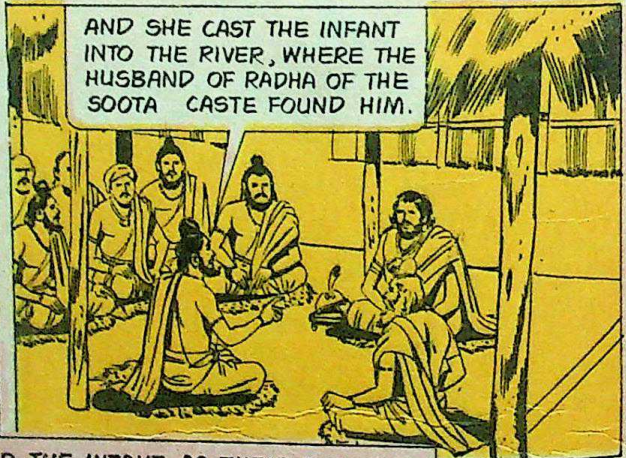
"AND A SON WAS BORN TO HER, CLAD IN ARMOUR AND DECKED WITH EARRINGS — THE SON WHO LATER BECAME KNOWN IN THE WORLD AS KARNA.



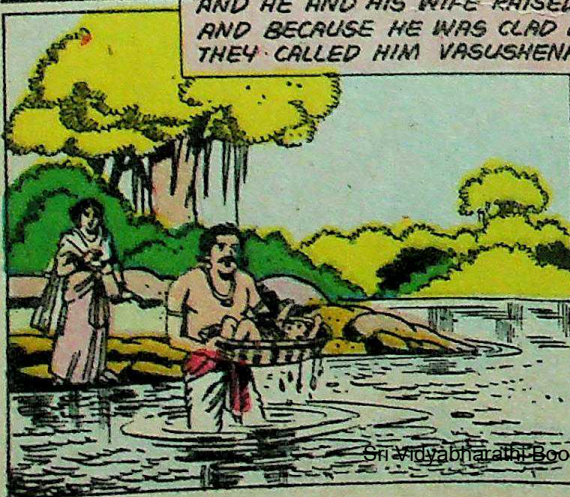
"DISTRESSED BY THE BIRTH OF A SON IN HER MAIDENHOOD, AND AFRAID OF HER RELATIVES, KUNTI THOUGHT DEEPLY ON WHAT WAS BEST FOR HER TO DO.



AND SHE CAST THE INFANT INTO THE RIVER, WHERE THE HUSBAND OF RADHA OF THE SOOTA CASTE FOUND HIM.



"AND HE AND HIS WIFE RAISED THE INFANT AS THEIR OWN SON. AND BECAUSE HE WAS CLAD IN ARMOUR AND GOLD EARRINGS, THEY CALLED HIM VASUSHENA.

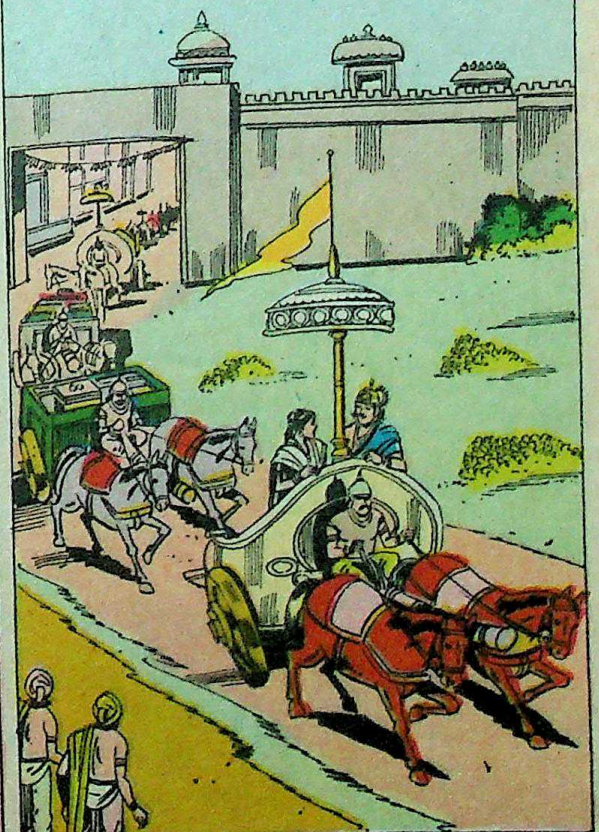
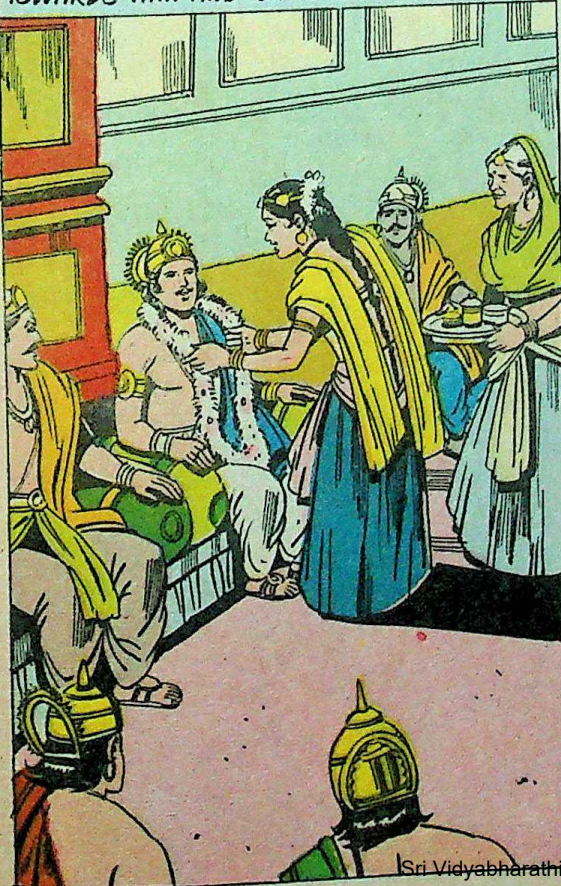


"MEANWHILE, KUNTIBHOJA INVITED SEVERAL PRINCES AND KINGS SO THAT KUNTI COULD SELECT A HUSBAND FROM AMONG THEM. AND KUNTI BEHELD PANDU, THE NOBLEST IN THE ROYAL ASSEMBLY.

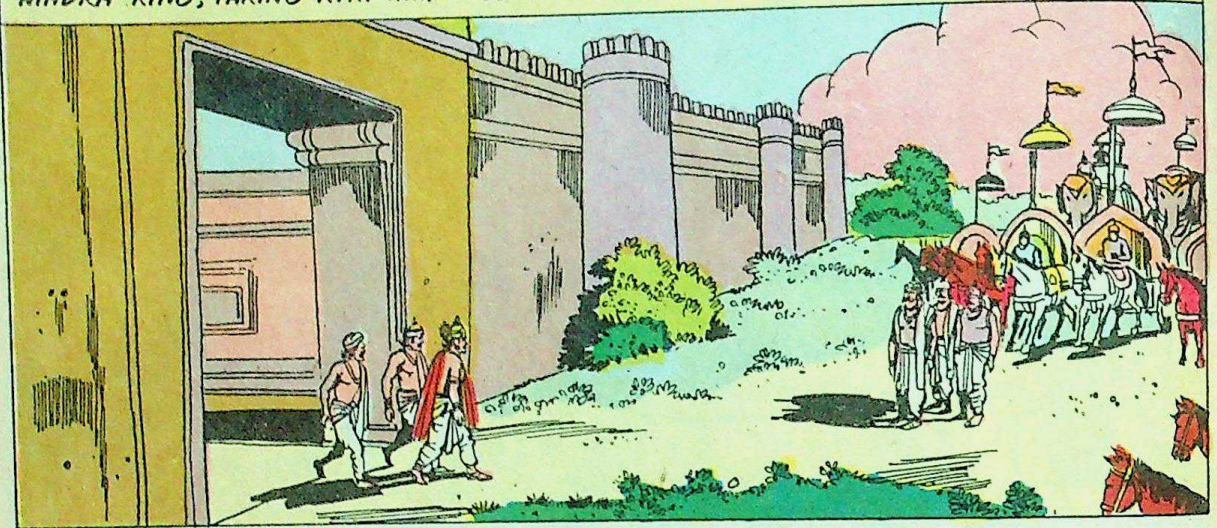


"PANDU, THE SCION OF THE KURU RACE, MAGNIFICENT LIKE ANOTHER INDRA IN HIS ROYAL SPLENDOUR, ATTRACTED KUNTI. AND WITH BECOMING MODESTY, SHE ADVANCED TOWARDS HIM AND GARLANDED HIM.

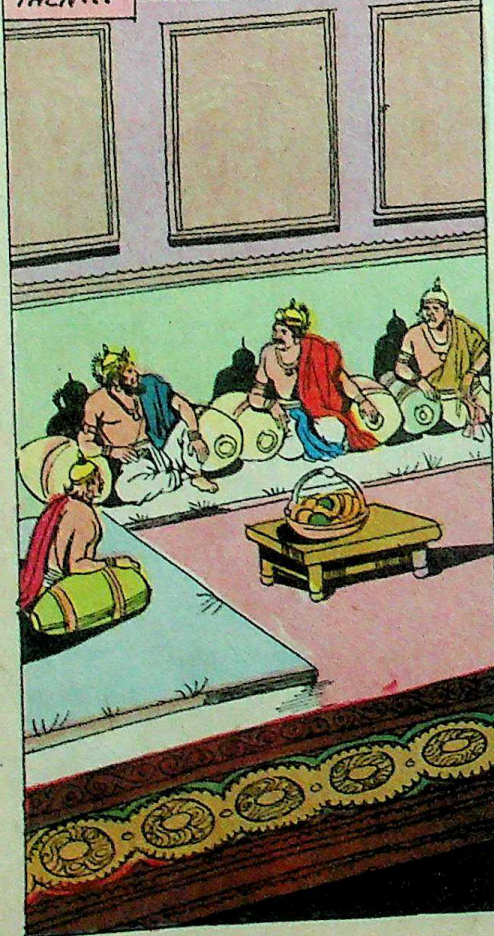
"AFTER THE WEDDING, KUNTIBHOJA PRESENTED HIS SON-IN-LAW WITH MANY VALUABLE GIFTS. PANDU, ALONG WITH KUNTI, THEN RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA.



"BHEESHMA THEN DECIDED THAT PANDU SHOULD HAVE A SECOND WIFE, AND HE THOUGHT OF MADRI THE SISTER OF SHALYA, KING OF MADRA. HE PROCEEDED TO THE CAPITAL OF THE MADRA KING, TAKING WITH HIM WISE COUNSELLORS, A VAST ARMY AND GREAT WEALTH.

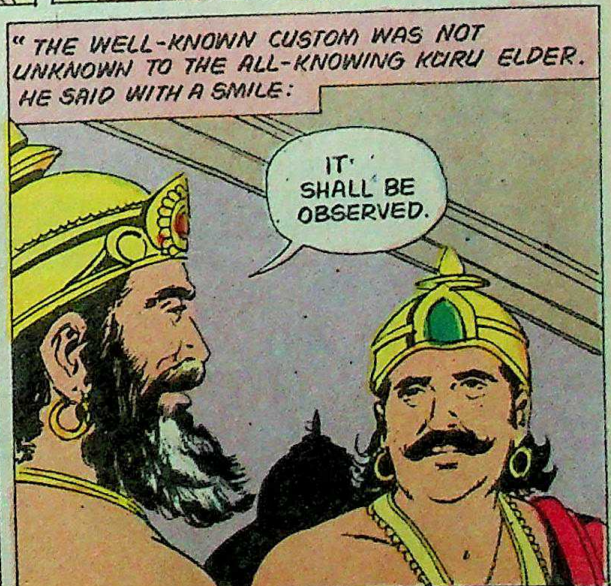
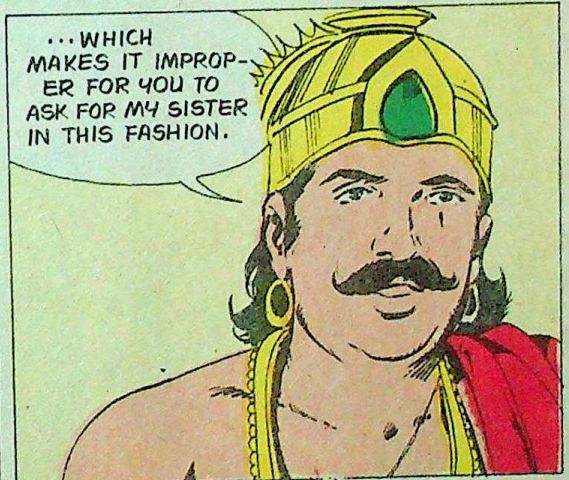
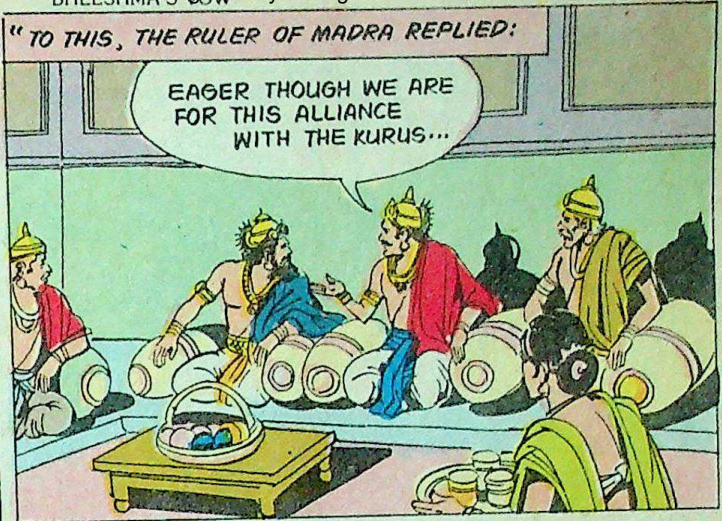
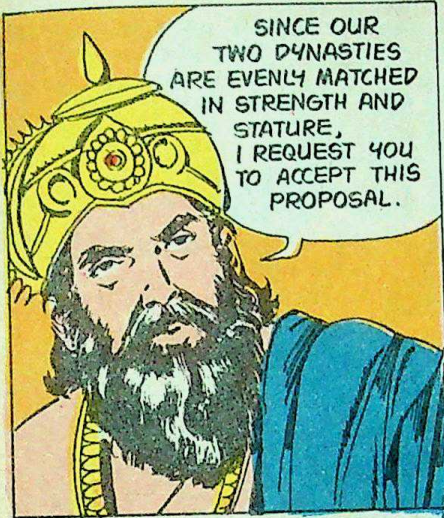


"SHALYA RECEIVED BHEESHMA WITH THE RESPECT DUE TO HIM, AND THEN...

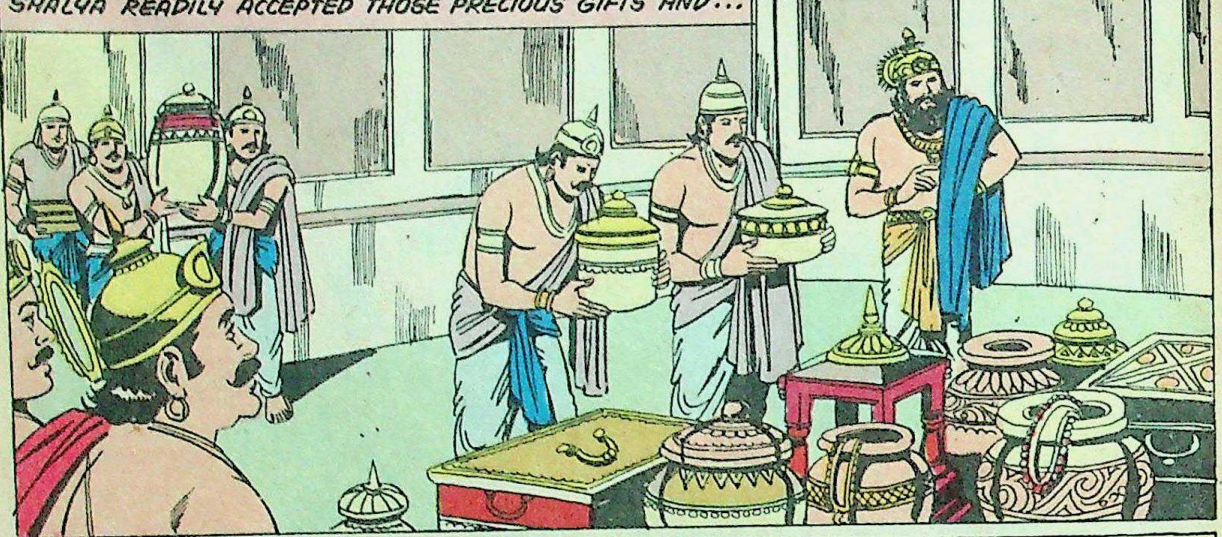


"... ASKED HIM THE REASON FOR HIS VISIT. BHEESHMA REPLIED:

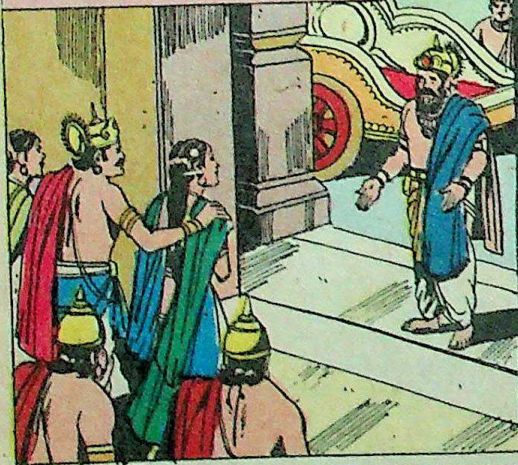




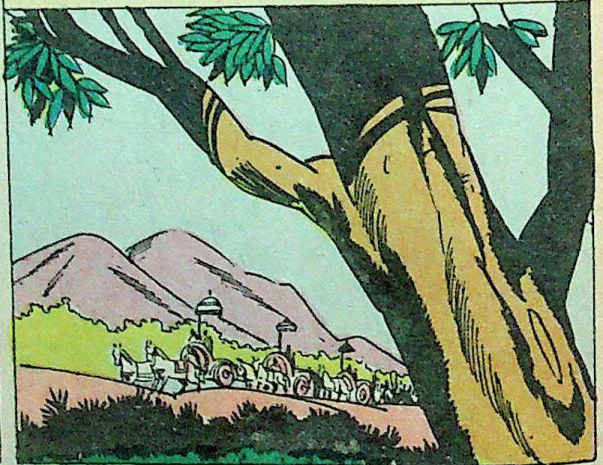
"AND BHEESHMA, CONFORMING TO THE MADRA CUSTOM, GAVE SHALYA UNTOLD WEALTH IN GOLD, PEARLS, CORALS, PRECIOUS STONES AND CLOTH, BESIDES ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND CHARIOTS. SHALYA READILY ACCEPTED THOSE PRECIOUS GIFTS AND...



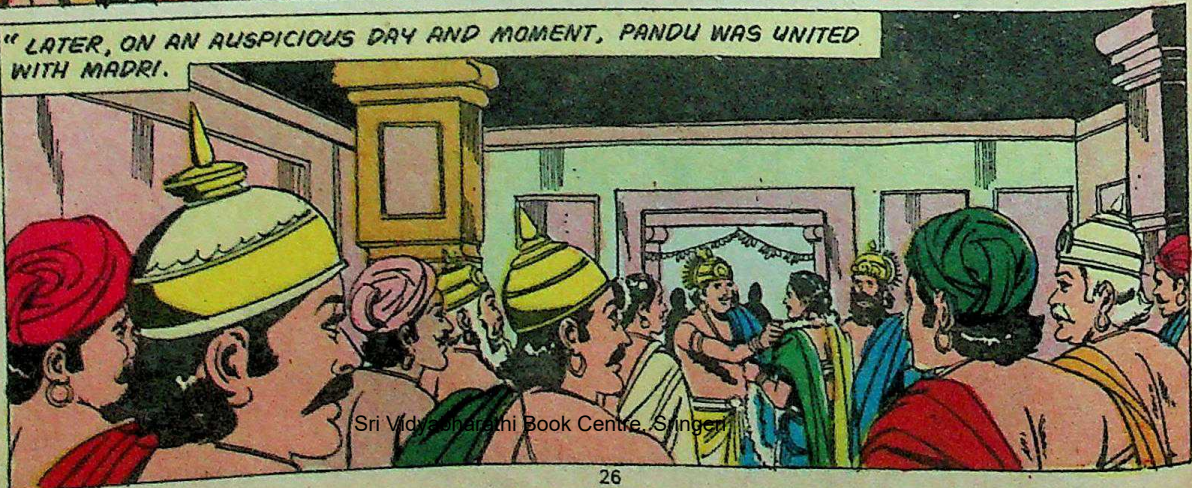
"...GAVE AWAY HIS SISTER, DECKED IN ORNAMENTS, TO THE KURUS.



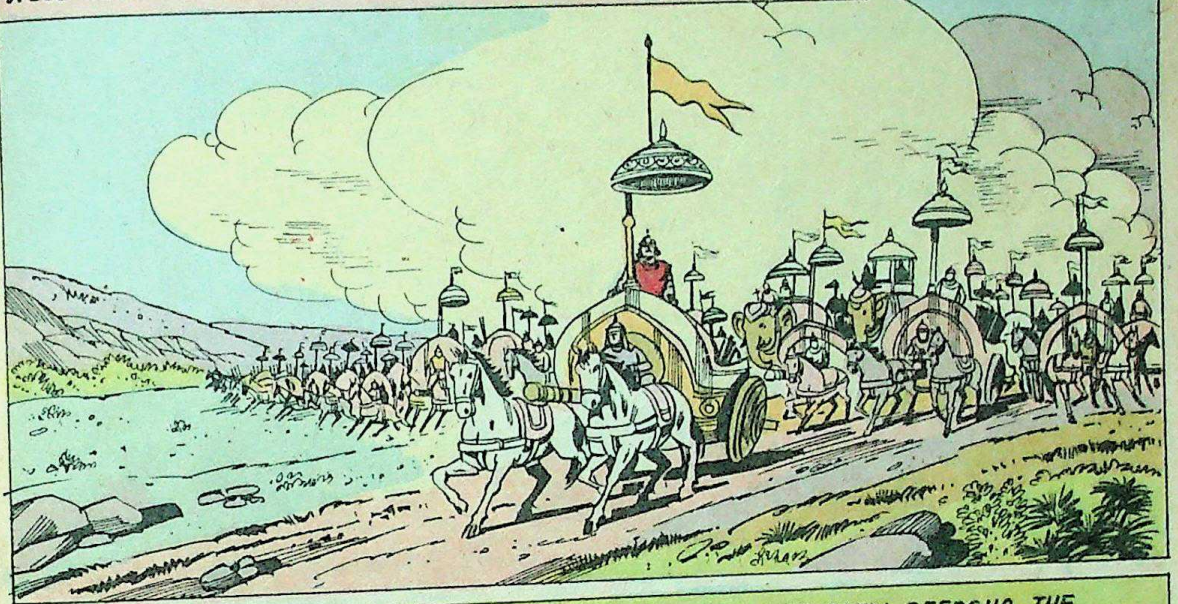
"PLEASSED WITH HIS MISSION, BHEESHMA RODE OUT TO HASTINAPURA WITH MADRI BY HIS SIDE



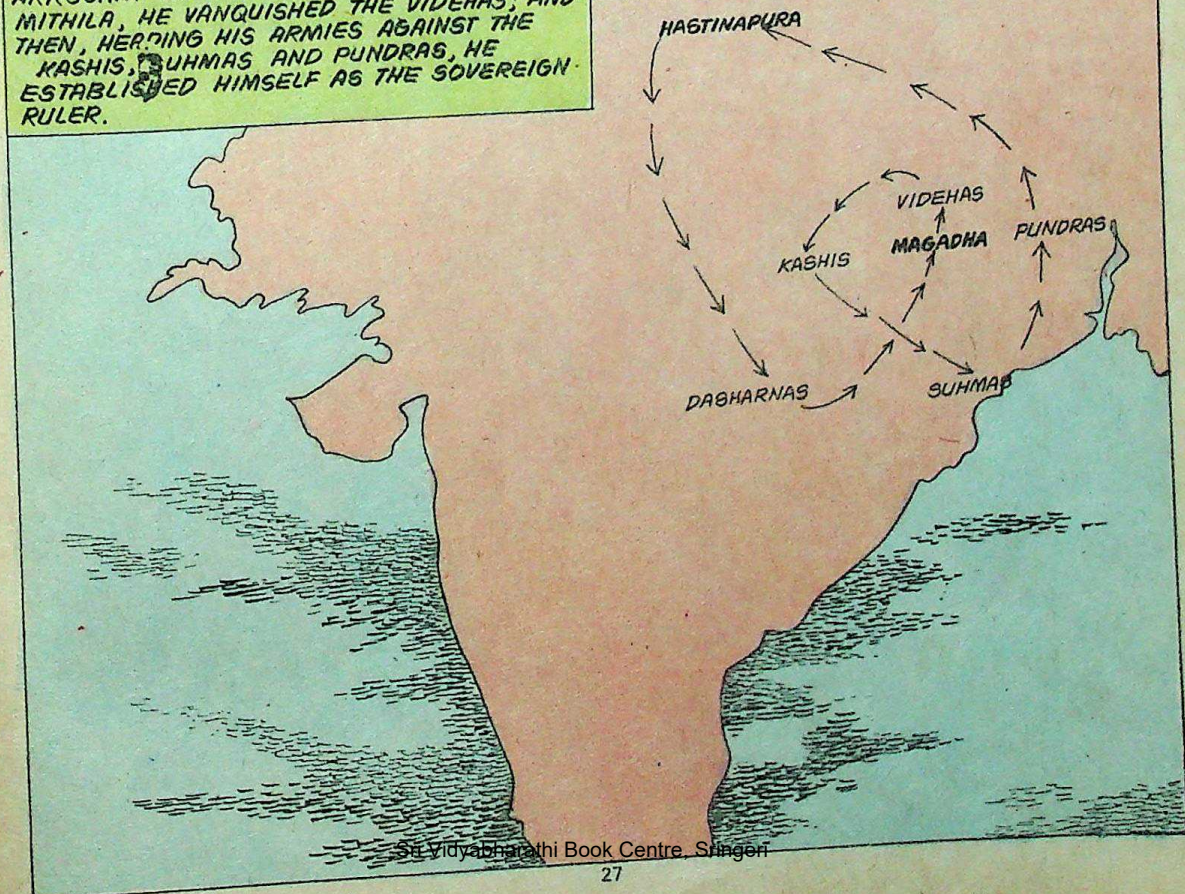
"LATER, ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY AND MOMENT, PANDU WAS UNITED WITH MADRI.

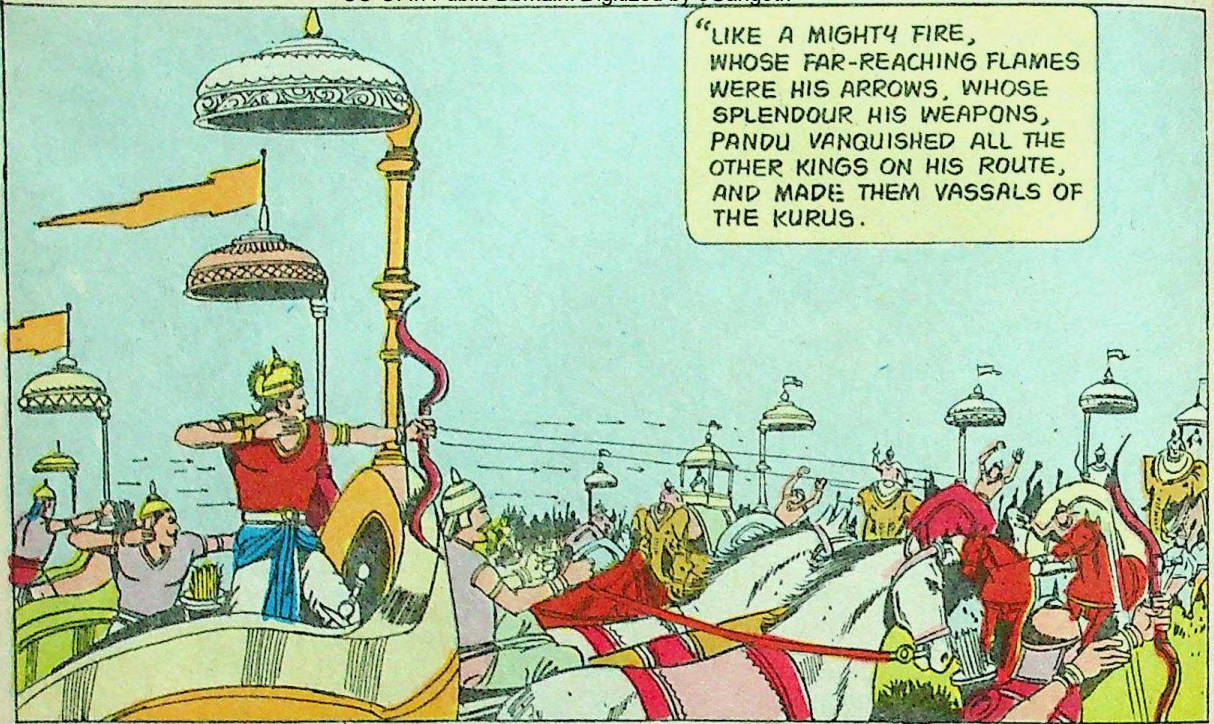


"PANDU SPENT THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS IN THE COMPANY OF HIS TWO WIVES. THEN WITH A WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY, HE SET OUT ON A CAMPAIGN OF CONQUEST."



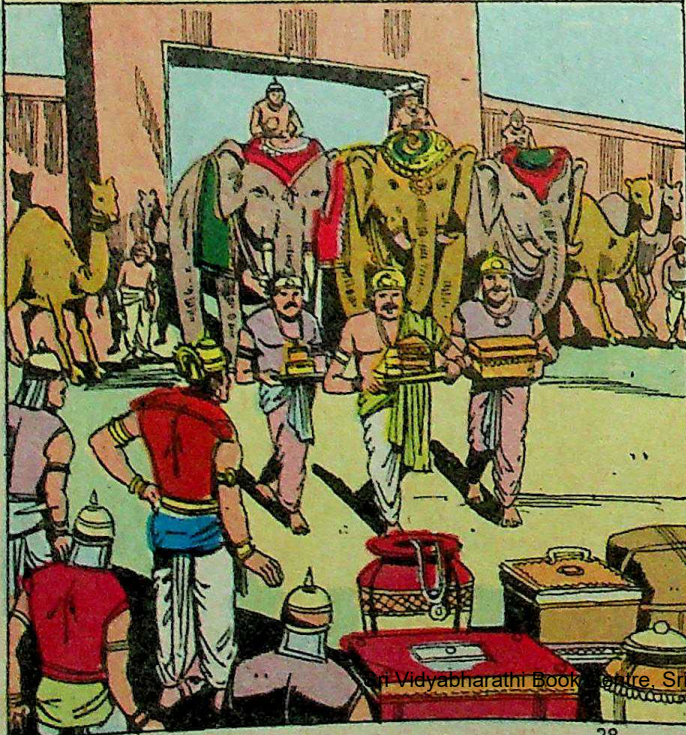
"HE FIRST SUBDUED THE DASHARNAS, THEN HE ATTACKED AND SLEW DEERGHA, THE ARROGANT KING OF MAGADHA, AND RANSACKED HIS TREASURY. THEN, MARCHING INTO MITHILA, HE VANQUISHED THE VIDEHAS; AND THEN, HERDING HIS ARMIES AGAINST THE KASHIS, SUHMAS AND PUNDRAS, HE ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE SOVEREIGN RULER."



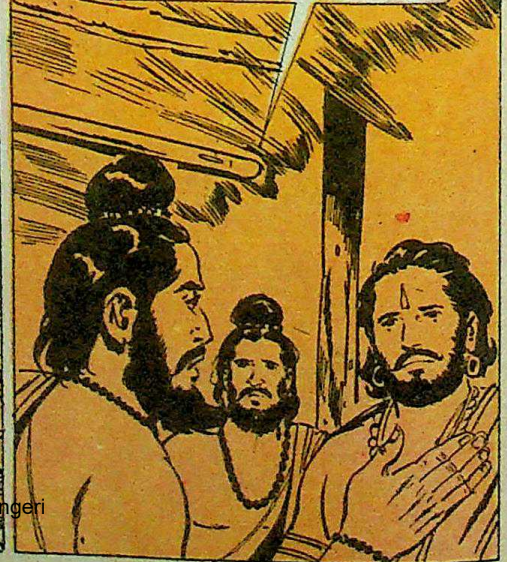


"LIKE A MIGHTY FIRE,
WHOSE FAR-REACHING FLAMES
WERE HIS ARROWS, WHOSE
SPLENDOUR HIS WEAPONS,
PANDU VANQUISHED ALL THE
OTHER KINGS ON HIS ROUTE,
AND MADE THEM VASSALS OF
THE KURUS.

"AND THESE VASSAL KINGS BROUGHT HIM GIFTS OF
PRECIOUS STONES, PEARLS, CORALS, MUCH GOLD
AND SILVER, AND COWS AND HORSES AND FINE
CHARIOTS AND ELEPHANTS AND ASSES AND CAMELS
AND BUFFALOES AND GOATS AND SHEEP AND BLANKETS
AND BEAUTIFUL HIDES AND CLOTH WOVEN OUT OF FUR.



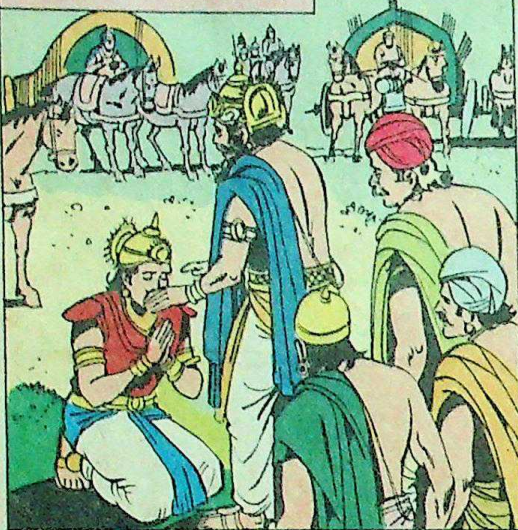
THE KING OF HASTINAPURA
ACCEPTED THESE GIFTS AND
RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL.



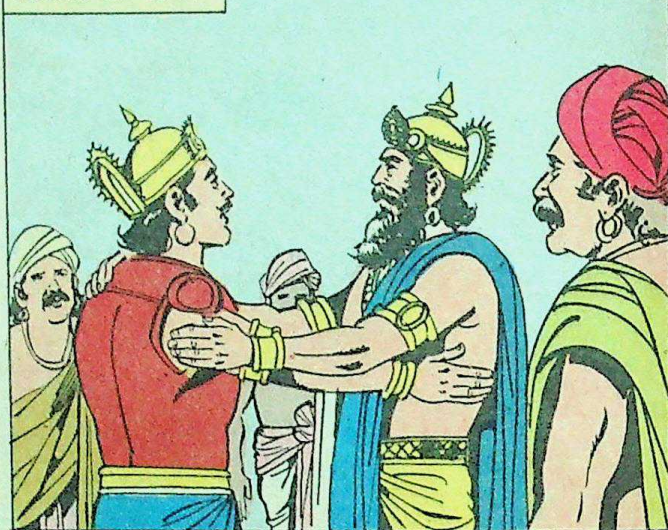
"THE CITIZENS SURGED FORWARD, WITH BHEESHMA AT THEIR HEAD, TO WELCOME THE VICTORIOUS PANDU. THEY HAD NOT PROCEEDED FAR, WHEN THEY SAW THE NEVER ENDING STREAM OF TRIBUTES BROUGHT IN BY THEIR KING. AND THEY EXCLAIMED:

PANDU HAS
BROUGHT WEALTH
AND GLORY TO THE
KURUS! HE IS
TRULY THE MONARCH
OF THE WORLD!

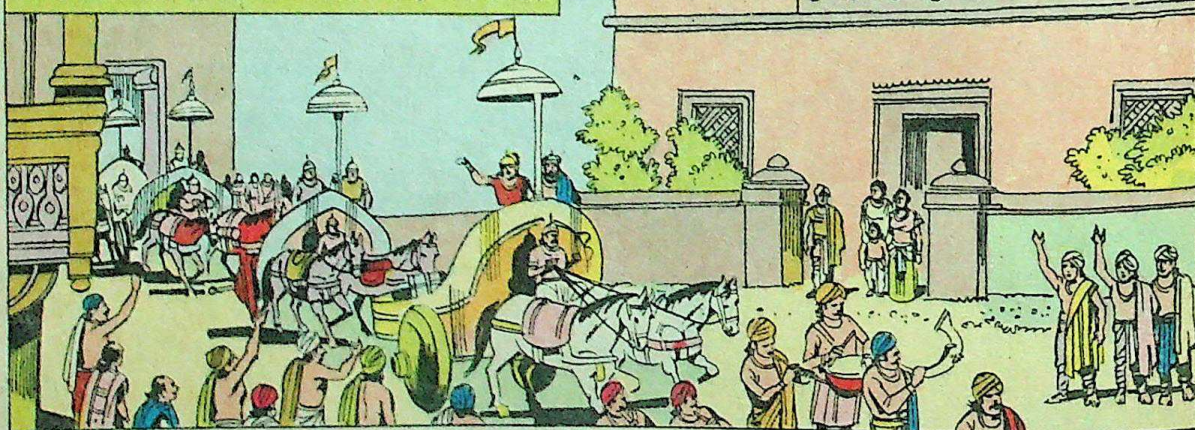
"AS SOON AS PANDU SAW BHEESHMA HE FELL AT HIS FEET.



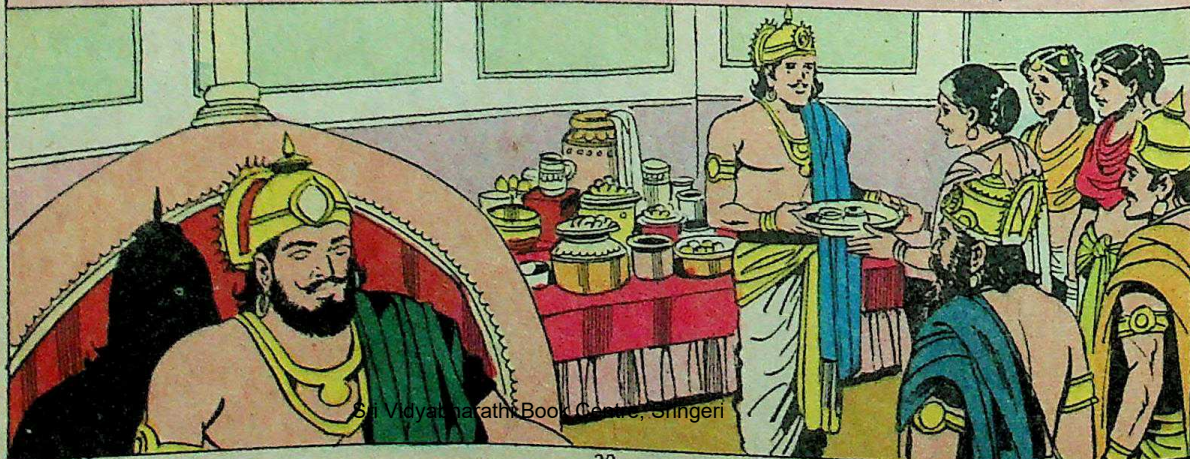
"AND BHEESHMA EMBRACED PANDU AND WEPT TEARS OF JOY.



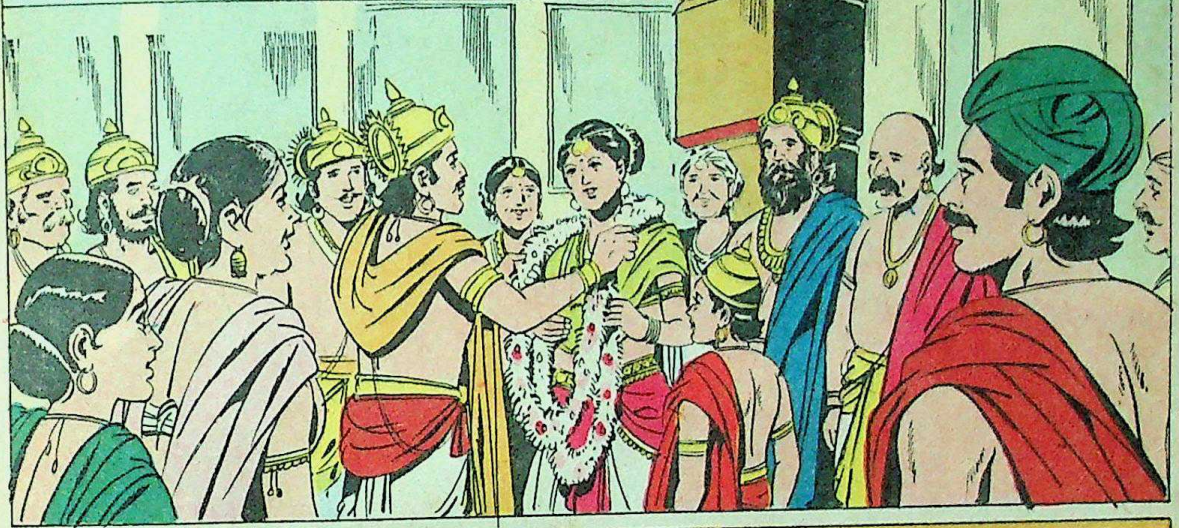
"AND WITH A FLOURISH OF CONCHES AND TRUMPETS, THE TRIUMPHANT KING ENTERED HIS CAPITAL.



"THEN, AT THE COMMAND OF DHRITARASHTRA, PANDU DISTRIBUTED THE WEALTH HE HAD ACQUIRED BY HIS VALOUR, TO BHEESHMA, SATYAVATI, AMBIKA AND AMBALIKA.



"AND PANDU SENT A PORTION TO VIDURA ALSO.
BHEESHMA THEN HEARD OF A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER
OF KING DEVAKA, BORN TO A SHOODRA WIFE. HE
BROUGHT HER AND MARRIED HER TO VIDURA.



THUS DID THE WISE AND TRUTHFUL
BHEESHMA UPHOLD HIS VOW AND
YET KEEP THE KURU LINE ALIVE
BY OBTAINING SONS FOR HIS
STEP-BROTHER'S WIDOWS AND, IN
DUE COURSE, VIRTUOUS WIVES
FOR THOSE SONS.



AND THUS ENDS THE SECOND SESSION OF OUR
RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S NARRATION—
DURING THE INTERVALS IN THE SACRIFICIAL RITES
OF JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA—OF VYASA'S
IMMORTAL TITHASA, THE MAHABHARATA.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY

Mahabharata—2

Pg

1. **MAHABHARATA** महाभारतः
Sanskrit epic the authorship of which is ascribed to (VEDA) VYASA.
BHEESHMA भीष्मः
Son of SHANTANU and GANGA. He was named DEVAVRATA. Came to be known as BHEESHMA for the terrible vow of renunciation that he took at the age of twenty to enable SHANTANU marry SATYAVATI.
(VEDA) VYASA वेदव्यासः
Literally the man who analysed and compiled the four VEDAS—RIG, YAJUR, SAMAN and ATHARVA.
BHARATA भारताः
A descendant of King BHARATA the son of DUSHYANTA and SHAKUNTALA.
VAISHAMPAYANA वैशम्पायनः
JANAMEJAYA जनमेजयः
SHANTANU शान्तनुः
SATYAVATI सत्यवती
Daughter of VASU UPARICHARA, reared by a fisherman chief; Mother of VEDA VYASA by PARASHARA; Mother of CHITRANGADA and VICHITRAVEERYA by SHANTANU.
2. **CHITRANGADA** चित्रांगदः
VICHITRAVEERYA विचित्रवीर्यः
GANDHARVA गन्धर्वाः
Celestial musicians often descending to earth to partake of human affairs.
HASTINAPURA हस्तिनापुरं
The capital of the KURUS, on the banks of the Ganga.
- KURUKSHETRA** कुरुक्षेत्रं
The land of KURUS where later the GITA will be preached and the battle of the MAHABHARATA fought.
3. **KASHI** काशी
SWAYAMVARA स्वयंवरः
9. **SHALVA** शाल्वः
The King of Saubha who was to marry Amba as mutually agreed.
SAUBHA सोभं
An ancient state.
10. **AMBA** अम्बा
AMBIKA अंबिका
AMBALIKA अंबालिका
13. **KSHATRIYA** क्षत्रियाः
The class of people traditionally engaged in the military arts.
PARASHARA पराशरः
A rishi, father of VEDA VYASA. See SATYAVATI.
KRISHNA DWAIPAYANA कृष्णद्वैपायनः
The name by which VEDA VYASA was known till he earned the title VEDA VYASA.
14. **INDRA** इन्द्रः
A Vedic God—in later times identified as the (presiding deity of rain) rain-god.
MITRA मित्रः
A Vedic God—in later times identified as the Sun-God.
VARUNA वरुणः
A Vedic God—in later times identified as the Ocean-god.
AGNI अग्निः
A Vedic God—in later times identified as the Fire-God.
17. **DHRITARASHTRA** धृतराष्ट्रः
PANDU पाण्डुः
VIDURA विदुरः
18. **KURUJANGALA** कुरुजाङ्गलम्
The country of the Kurus.
19. **GANDHARI** गान्धारी
SUBALA सुबलः
King of Gandhara.
KUNTI कुन्ती
SHOORA शूरः
Grand-father of KRISHNA and father of VASUDEVA.
MADRI माद्री
SHALYA शल्यः
SHIVA शिवः
The destroyer. The third one of the divine triumvirate.
20. **SHAKUNI** शकुनिः
21. **YADAVA** यादवः
One descended from YADU.
KUNTIBHOJA कुन्तिभोजः
PRITHA पृथा
DURVASA दुर्वासस्
A rishi known for being hard to please.
22. **SURYA** सूर्यः
KARNA कर्णः
RADHA राधा
After whom KARNA is often referred to as RADHEYA or son of RADHA.
SOOTA सूतः
One engaged in the profession of driving chariots.
VASUSHENA वसुधेनः
The original name of Karna, the first-born of Kunti.
24. **MADRA** मद्रः
The King of the Madra people.
27. **DASHARNA** दशार्णाः
A clan.
DEERGA दीर्घः
A king of the ancient state of Magadha.
MAGADHA मगधं
An ancient state.
MITHILA मिथिला
The capital of the Videhas.
VIDEHA विदेहाः
A clan.
KASHI काशी
The people of the state of Kashi.
SUHMA सुहमाः
The people of the state of Suhma.
PUNDRA पुण्ड्राः
The people of the state of Pundra.
31. **DEVAKA** देवकः
SHOODRA शूद्राः
The class of people traditionally engaged in tilling the soil.
ITIHAASA इतिहासः
An epic. Literally = "And so indeed it was."

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